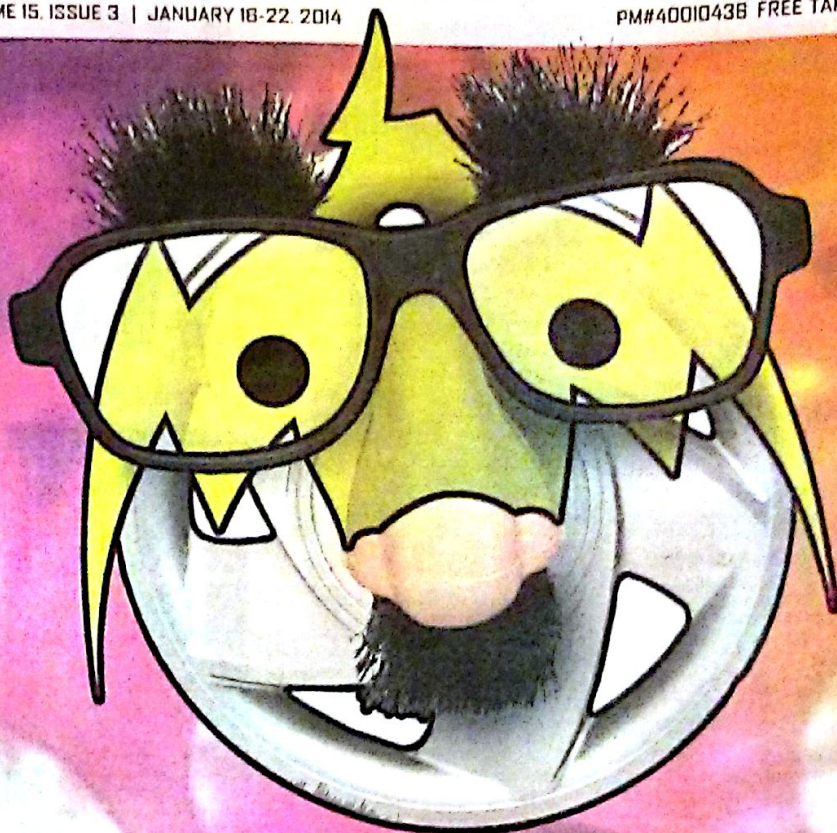


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JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 8 2014

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WRONG GUYS, YEAR OF GLAD, SMOKES AND THE ROYALTONES

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ON OUR COVER
Laughter really is the best medicine. It is known to strengthen the heart and decrease stress. According to a research study, laughing for 15 to 20 minutes a day burns five pounds a year! So thankfully, there's a crazy funny comedy fest heading to Moncton from Jan. 24 to Feb. 8. Look out for your health, and have a laugh.

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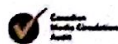
DISTRIBUTION
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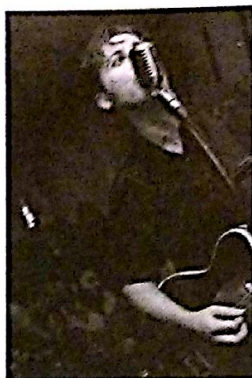
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NEWS



See The Royaltones, p. 19.
Photo credit: Jocelyne Vautour.

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Art Battle breaks down barriers

Art Battle does more than provide a high-intensity show for spectators and a chance to shine for artists. It invites people into the visual arts world to better understand the process of creating something from nothing.

For most artists, the inspiration and development of a piece of art is a personal journey they travel solo. The public is only welcomed into the process to see the finished product in spaces such as art galleries, museums and cafes.

Allowing community members to be a part of the evolution of the art, to see the artist choose a colour, stroke paint on canvas, create texture with the brush, clarifies what immerse work goes into generating art.

It can be likened to observing a chef create a meal from start to finish, or a glassblower breathing life into what looks like shape-shifting bright orange plastic, hot from the inferno. On the Halifax waterfront at Nova Scotian Crystal, the doors to the studios are opened and people throng to the site, catching a glimpse of art in the works.

Why do we find it fascinating? Because the artists are accomplishing something that the majority of us cannot do. And to view this first-hand is mesmerizing.

Art Battle is a two-way street, offering the artists a public platform to show their work and get their name out there. For the artists, transplanting them from the comfort of their studio and plunking them in the middle of a crowd to work under the pressures of competition and time is clearly a challenge. They have to focus, come to the easel armed with ideas and not let the outside world shake them of their resolve.

Once the competition is over - after three rounds of 20-minute painting - the public chooses the winner. The barriers between the artists and the public dissolve and a new conversation can begin.

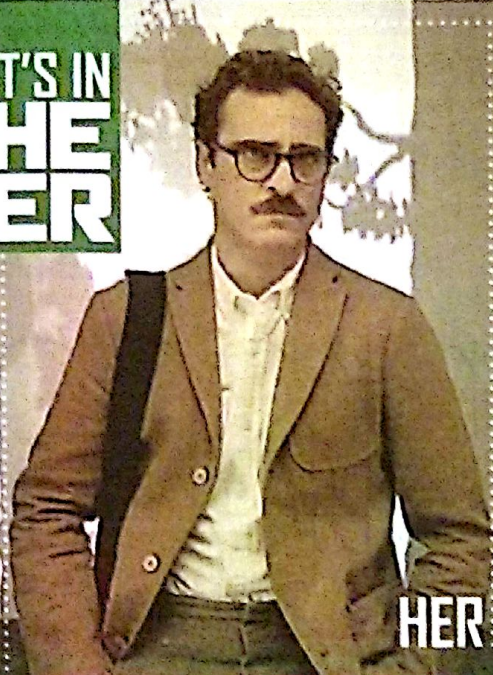
Art Battle is now in its fifth season. This Saturday it makes its way to Fredericton for the first time, Art Battle 90. Saint John has seen the action before, with Art Battles 55 and 74. Get out to the Charlotte Street Arts Centre on Saturday night and support the city's amazing artistic talent. Here's hoping there are many more battles to come.

- KATHERINE HUDSON

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SHOWTIMES PAGE 28

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Jeffrey Deskovic visits Fredericton this week to tell his story by Jon MacNeill

Innocent man who spent 16 years in prison now helps wrongfully convicted

Jeffrey Deskovic spent 16 years of his life serving a prison sentence for a crime he didn't commit. But far from being bitter over what was taken away from him, the 40-year-old man focuses instead on the greater purpose the ordeal gave him.

Deskovic is the head of the Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice, an organization which lobbies for legislative changes within the U.S. justice system while fighting to free other victims of wrongful convictions.

"I believe that this is what my purpose is in the world, and I'm grateful to do it," Deskovic told *Here Magazine* in a recent interview from his home in New York. "It's my silver lining in looking at what happened to me."

Deskovic is in Fredericton this week to share his story and the work his foundation does during a public event organized through the criminology department at St. Thomas University.

At age 17, Deskovic was wrongfully convicted of the rape and murder of a high school classmate and sent to a maximum security prison in New York, despite DNA evidence supporting his innocence.

Seven lost appeals and a parole refusal later, Deskovic was exonerated in 2006 when further DNA testing confirmed his innocence and identified the actual assailant, who had since taken another life.

Deskovic launched the foundation in 2012, using compensation he'd been awarded related to his case. The organization raises awareness about problems within the justice system that lead to wrongful convictions, lobbies for legislative reforms to bring greater accuracy to the system, works to exonerate inmates who were wrongfully incarcerated, and provides support for recent exonerates as they reintegrate with society.

Deskovic said on a slow week, the foundation receives 10 to 15 letters from inmates asking for help.

He said experts in the criminal justice field estimate between one and two per cent of inmates are wrongfully convicted.

"They're all guesses, and I think the number is higher, between 15 and 20 per cent," he said. "I did time with 11 people who were exonerated either before me or af-

ter me. So when I look at that, and the amount of cases we get, it's kind of like the iceberg theory – the amount of ice you see above the surface is small compared to what's below."

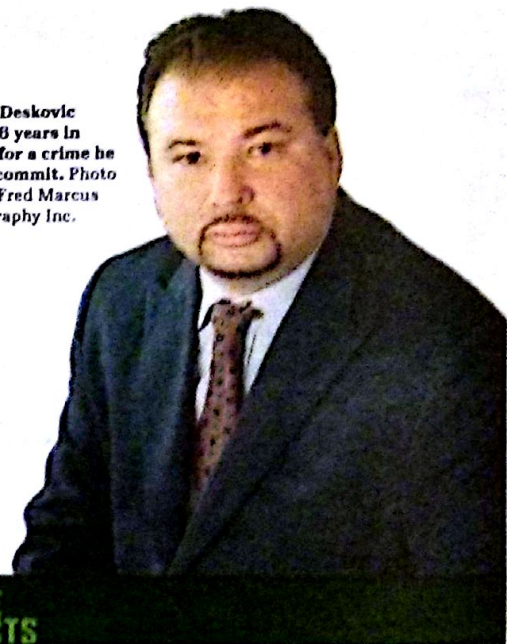
While relatively new to the field, his foundation has helped get one person exonerated – William Lopez, who served 23½ years – and two people granted parole despite maintaining their innocence (something that normally garners an instant rejection from the parole board).

"I really see wrongful convictions largely as a public safety issue, amongst other things," Deskovic said. "When the wrong person is convicted, that leaves the actual perpetrator free to strike again, and that's what happened in my case."

The foundation is also pushing for specific reforms to make the justice system more accurate, such as laws against prosecutorial misconduct and better procedures for conducting interrogations and taking confessions.

"I think that change is inevitable, it's only a matter of time," he said. "It's not something that just automatically happens overnight, but I think the cause is just and I think we have the momentum on our side."

Jeffrey Deskovic spent 16 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. Photo credit: Fred Marcus Photography Inc.



THE FACTS

Jeffrey Deskovic is the founder and executive director of the Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice. The foundation raises awareness about wrongful convictions and the deficiencies in the criminal justice system that cause them, and lobbies for the reforms needed to slow down the rate at which they occur. Deskovic is in Fredericton on Tuesday, Jan. 21, to speak about his work and personal experience with wrongful conviction. The event is open to the public and takes place at 7:30 p.m., in the Kinsella Auditorium at McCain Hall (9 Duffie Dr.) on the campus of St. Thomas University.

Retired senator fights for mental illness treatment

Partners for Mental Health founder tackles big topic in capital city

JON MACNEILL

FREDERICTON — A retired senator who was instrumental in forming the Mental Health Commission of Canada is leading a new campaign to raise awareness of youth depression and suicide.

Michael Kirby is the founder of Partners for Mental Health, a nationwide social movement aiming to foster dialogue and lobby government to provide better support for children and youth suffering from mental health issues.

Kirby is a former university professor with decades of experience in public policy and politics, serving as assistant principal secretary under prime minister Pierre Trudeau and participating in negotiations that led to the Constitution Act in 1982. And he's in Fredericton this week for a slew of speaking engagements.

The talks, some open to the public and others reserved for students, are part of the distinguished speakers series at St. Thomas University's McKenna Centre for Communications and Public Policy.

Kirby launched Partners for Mental Health two years ago. This fall, the organization began a campaign asking all provincial governments to put more funding toward youth counselling services.

In making the pitch, Kirby said

there are only two numbers politicians need to know.

The first is the statistic that 70 per cent of adults with mental illness had noticeable issues develop before they were 20 years old. The second, is the fact that only 25 per cent of youth with mental health issues receive treatment.

"To put it in a more staggering way, 75 per cent of kids don't get any treatment," Kirby said.

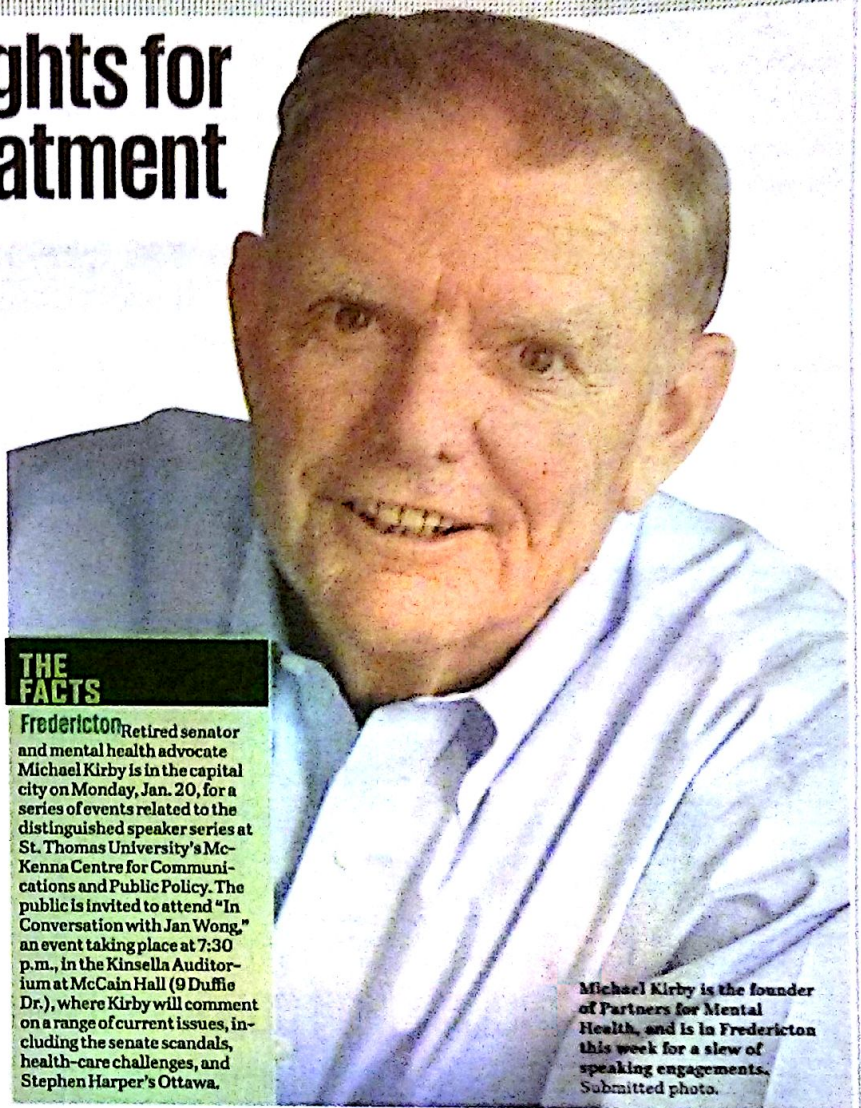
"Now, if we had 75 per cent of kids with cancer who didn't get treated, you can imagine the public reaction. And I tell you that only to show how far mental health is in the health-care system relative to other things."

Currently, Kirby said, if a child suffers from depression or a mood disorder, only psychiatric treatment is covered by medicare.

Kirby said studies have shown that psychotherapy from a psychologist is often the best way to start treating youth, but that's only available for parents who can pay for the service.

Partners for Mental Health is lobbying governments to provide funding for such therapy in an effort to lift the number of youth who receive proper help to 50 per cent over three years.

Fredericton reporter Jon MacNeill may be reached at macneill.jon@herenb.com.



THE FACTS

Fredericton Retired senator and mental health advocate Michael Kirby is in the capital city on Monday, Jan. 20, for a series of events related to the distinguished speaker series at St. Thomas University's McKenna Centre for Communications and Public Policy. The public is invited to attend "In Conversation with Jan Wong," an event taking place at 7:30 p.m., in the Kinsella Auditorium at McCain Hall (9 Duffie Dr.), where Kirby will comment on a range of current issues, including the senate scandals, health-care challenges, and Stephen Harper's Ottawa.

Michael Kirby is the founder of Partners for Mental Health, and is in Fredericton this week for a slew of speaking engagements. Submitted photo.



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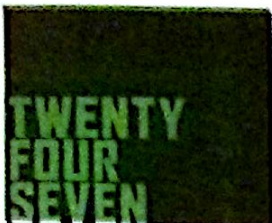


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F **MONCTON** Shake off the rainy weather blues and get on the dance floor. Catch boogie band Spoiled Rotten at Casino New Brunswick's Moose's Wild Pub from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m.

S **MONCTON** It's time to celebrate the Bard by dusting off your kilt, eating lots of good food, listening to some poetry and drinking whisky. The Greater Moncton Scottish Association is hosting its annual Robbie Burns Day banquet dinner at the Moncton Lions Club. The reception is at 6 p.m., and dinner follows at 7 p.m.



MONCTON Learn about the night sky by heading to Tankville School at 1665 Elmwood Dr., to learn about constellations, mythology and apps for appreciating the night sky. The Nature Moncton Night Sky Workshop runs from 1 until 4 p.m., and into the early evening if skies are clear.

M **FREDERICTON** The Monday Night Film Series presents *Wadja* at 7:30 p.m., in Tilley 102 at UNB. It's Saudi Arabia's first film by a woman and about a girl who tries to buy a green bike in a country that prohibits women from driving.

T **SAINT JOHN** Prepare your pipes for I Am The Voice auditions at the RBar (2 Charlotte St., 214-7300) and the three following Tuesdays. Even if you don't want to sing, the auditions are open to the public.

W **SAINT JOHN** Does your closet feel blah? Inject it with some new ideas from the past, since fashion moves in cycles. The New Brunswick Museum is hosting an exhibit - Small Town, Big Fashion - that focuses on fashion in southeastern New Brunswick from 1860 to 1960.

T **FREDERICTON** Purchase a new piece of art and support local artists by heading to the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. It's the second-annual members show and sale where proceeds are split between gallery members.

Big fishing exhibition lures visitors

Trade show gives New Brunswick youth chance to learn about industry

VANESSA GALLANT

MONCTON - For those looking to learn more about commercial fishing, this year's Fish Canada, Workboat Canada show in Moncton boasts new informational seminars and potential networking opportunities.

The show, which has been taking place for more than 25 years, runs from Jan. 24 to 25 at the Moncton Coliseum. Show manager Shawn Murphy from Master Promotions Ltd. said while it is not meant to be a career fair, there is still appeal to young adults interested in fisheries or boat building.

"They would certainly meet a lot of fishermen at the show," said Murphy. "A lot of the people that are attending would be commercial fishermen. They (attendees) could see what's being done, meet the associations in that field, so probably there would be a way to network and really talk to people who know the commercial fishing side."

Most of the exhibitors are selling goods and services within the industry, such as boat builders.

Fish Canada, Workboat Canada touts itself as the biggest commercial marine event in Atlantic Canada. The seminars are new to the trade show this year and are includ-

FISHING FACTS

Moncton If you're interested in attending Fish Canada, Workboat Canada, it takes place Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Moncton Coliseum (377 Killam Dr.).

For more details on exhibitors, door prizes and a schedule of the seminars, see the trade-show website: fcwc.ca



The Fish Canada, Workboat Canada trade show has been taking place in Moncton for several decades, offering networking, sales and information opportunities for those who make a living on the water. Photo credit: Master Promotions Ltd.

ed with the \$15 admission charge. They will touch on subjects such as traceability, safety, processing, the environment and online registration for those in the fishing industry. Presenters of the seminars include the Nova Scotia Boatbuilders Association, the Lobster Council of Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters and more.

Murphy said Fish Canada, Workboat Canada averages about 4,000 visitors each year, and they come from all over Eastern Canada, or even internationally.

"They came as far from Quebec, the Gaspé region," he said. "We have visitors from P.E.I., from Nova Scotia and we even have some visitors from as far as Iceland that have come to that trade show. Moncton, being very central, does attract a lot of people from all over."

He said the industry welcomes young people who want to learn the skills necessary to make commercial fishing their career - a lifestyle that has survived for hundreds of years in the area.

"Trades - you're talking fishing, you're talking agriculture, you're talking forestry - it's a lot of the

same story," said Murphy. "Fishing or commercial fishing, there's a lot of hard work, and young people now are being pushed to continue their education and go into different jobs. I think people are now realizing that some important jobs - such as agriculture or commercial fishing - need to continue and there's a comeback ... Even with the TV shows such as the *Deadliest Catch*, people are starting to come back to those but there's not that much relief."

Moncton reporter Vanessa Gallant may be reached at gallant.vanessa@herenb.com.

Networking opportunity for Saint John newcomers

City's multicultural resource centre hosts Saturday Social

SHANA GRAVES

SAINT JOHN - Everyone knows the feeling of moving to a new place and having to start over: a new job, new apartment. Luckily for some, Saint John offers a social networking event for new people to the city from throughout the country and the world.

Newcomers' Saturday Social is organized by the Saint John Multicultural and Newcomers Resource Centre. The event welcomes both local residents and those that have recently relocated to Saint John from other countries to meet and talk about various topics.

Over the past five to 10 years, the international population in New

Brunswick has grown considerably, and Saint John is no exception. In 2010, Saint John was named a "Cultural Capital" in Canada for its diversity and welcoming atmosphere. Of course many people choose to relocate to large urban centres such as Vancouver or Toronto, but why Saint John?

Guy Verna, integration agent and communications officer for resource centre, said a newcomer to the city once told him the reason they chose to live in Saint John as opposed to a big city is, "most people in larger urban centres do not have the 'luxury' to enjoy life as much as we do in a city like here, that's why we stay in Saint John and enjoy the luxury."

Verna said originally, Saturday Social was organized to bring newcomers out to meet local volunteers. Verna said it didn't take long for the Saint John Multicultural and Newcomers Resource Centre to accomplish its original goal with Saturday Social, and soon it had grown into something more. He said it was "a social platform to embrace all the new multicultural members, new volunteers, and active citizens who want to meet and greet new friends."

These regular social events are open to everyone and are targeted toward newcomers from different countries, but in order for it to be successful and fulfil its purpose, they need English-speaking volunteers to help facilitate conver-

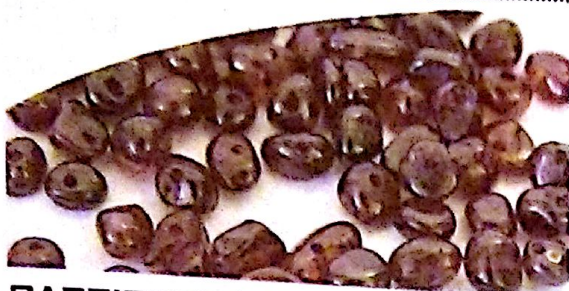
sations.

"It welcomes everyone, including all ages, genders and races. As long as people can talk about things positively, and share their tips for being in Saint John," said Verna.

Verna said that just in the past few weeks they have welcomed around 20 newcomers from various countries. Topics include a lot of local current events, but Verna said it's more of a networking event, where people from various countries can meet and talk with each other and with locals about Saint John, what's going on locally and what it's like to live here.

Newcomers' Saturday Social runs every Saturday from 2 until 4 p.m., on the second floor of the Saint John Free Public Library.

HOROSCOPE



CAPRICORN | GARNET

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! New people will be interested in you, drawn in by your stylish esthetics and cool factor. It's important to complete personal goals before allowing yourself to get wrapped up in something new. Love heavily influences the way you think and communicate. February and June are especially dreamy in this regard. Cancer and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 22, 14 and 45.

ARIES | March 21 - April 19
Worrying about every little thing you are given and whether or not you have contributed enough to earn it is a waste of energy. If you're given something, it's probably for a good reason. Enjoy it.

TAURUS | April 20 - May 20
You have big talents and little affinity for publicizing them. That's fine - stay modest. There are people around you now who will do all the marketing for you.

GEMINI | May 21 - June 21
You won't feel like leaving the thing that's working well, but this is no time to get too comfortable at home. Your best source of luck and love is miles away from your front door.

CANCER | June 22 - July 22
To find your own identity, you sometimes have to try others on for size. By the way, identity quests are not strictly for very young people. You've had many incarnations thus far, and you'll have many more.

LEO | July 23 - Aug. 22
There is danger in every life. You know better than to expose yourself to it unnecessarily, even though this may be a particularly slow time danger-wise. Seek other kinds of excitement.

VIRGO | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Your active mind will latch on to an idea and spin it every which way. Every question leads to another. You're curious, and this is why you'll learn, do and be more successful.

LIBRA | SEPT. 23 - OCT. 23
Do you remember your dreams? There's information there that will shed light on a relationship. Increased spiritual awareness and intuitive ability are part of your cosmic gift now through the weekend.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24 - Nov. 21
Other people's organized efforts will interest you and inspire you to start a program of your own. Physical activities are favoured, as is participation in the arts, music and entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
You and your siblings or neighbours will get together for a group venture. This will be remembered later by the youngest and eldest of the group, so be sure to include them in a meaningful way.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Discussion ensues, first in person and then through email and text messages. Take care that the version of your thoughts that makes it into writing is full of sensitivity and humanity.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
You can't predict how a project will turn out because there are too many variables involved now. Narrow down the variables, and you'll have more control over the outcome.

PISCES | Feb. 19 - March 20
There's something valuable to be gained from relating to someone who thinks very differently than you. Be bold. Talk to people you don't know about what you're doing. Male relationships are favoured.

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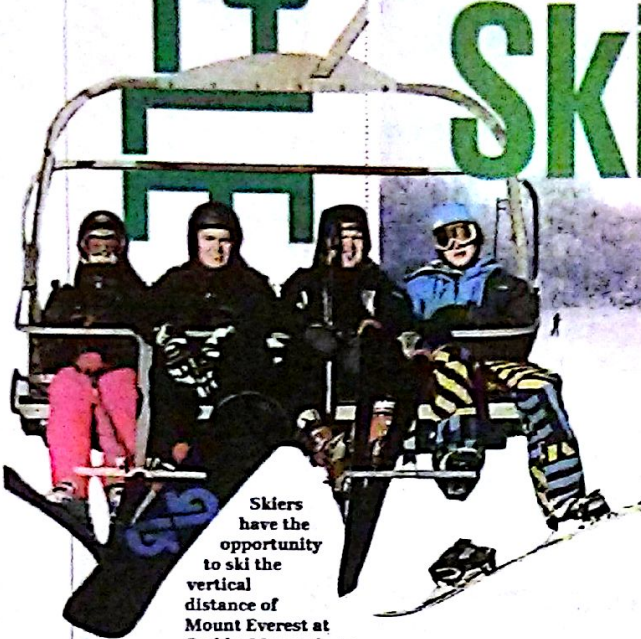
HOROSCOPE

STY

Crabbe Mountain hosts fundraiser where
skiers travel 29,029 feet by Kyle Mullin

To ski the vertical distance
that makes up Mount Everest,
skiers must complete 34 runs
at Crabbe Mountain. Photo
credit: Katherine Hudson.

Skiing Everest



Skiers
have the
opportunity
to ski the
vertical
distance of
Mount Everest at
Crabbe Mountain on
Jan. 26. File photo/
The Daily Gleaner.

M

ount Everest
may be the pinnacle for climbers,
but for adventurers who get their
thrills from descending instead of
ascending, Crabbe Mountain has
an Everest-size fix.

"Thirty-four runs at Crabbe
Mountain equals the vertical dis-
tance of Mount Everest," said Jordan
Cheney, promotions and marketing
head of the local ski destination.

Cheney said Crabbe Mountain
will be hosting the sixth annual
Ski Patrol Fundraiser. Participants
can sign up for \$20. Those without
lift passes can obtain one for half
price, \$20, if they sign up for the
challenge. Because day passes are
usually \$40, participants in the
charity event can take part and get
a day pass for the same price. Pro-
ceeds will be going toward the Ski
Patrol System, to help the large-
ly volunteer-based organization
purchase more safety equipment.

To entice skiers to take part, or-
ganizers decided to draw a com-
parison between famous peak and
the efforts of assisting those who
make mountain recreation safe.

"As far as determining the
amount of runs required at
Crabbe to equal Everest's verti-
cal, we simply just took Everest's
vertical, which is approximately
29,029 feet or 8,848 metres, and
divided Crabbe Mountain's verti-
cal, which is 853 feet. That equals

34.03 runs," Cheney said.

Participants can sign up at
Crabbe Mountain's lodge on Jan.
26, starting at 8 a.m., and begin
riding the mountain right after
the lift opens at 9 a.m. Volunteers
from Ski Patrol will wait in a tent at
the top of the chairlift for partici-
pants to arrive at the mountain-
top. Each of those charitable skiers
will wear a number, and every
time they make it to the peak, and
begin a new run, the patrollers
will mark the journey off, and
keep track of the number of
runs per participant.

"It is a laid-back race.

First person to com-
plete all 34 runs gets
bragging rights,"
Cheney said of the
competition.

Despite Cheney's
casual description,
many participants will
no doubt take it se-
riously. He recommends
to anyone who signs up to
dress warmly and bring
their own food. On aver-
age it takes approxima-
tely six hours of straight
skiing for a participant
to finish the challenge.

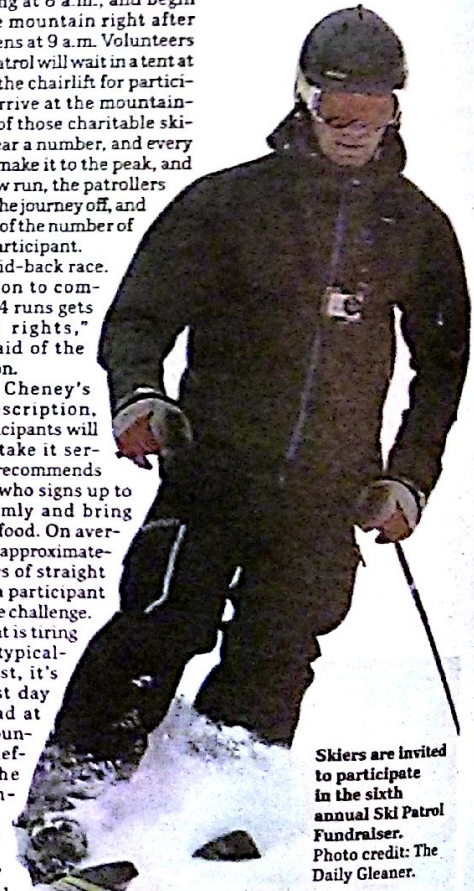
"The event is tiring
and cold, typical-
ly. For most, it's
the longest day
they've had at
Crabbe Moun-
tain, and defini-
tely the most con-
secutive runs
without
a break,"
Cheney said.

"To finish is rewarding personally,
and rewarding in that your efforts
are going toward a good cause.



TRY EVEREST

Crabbe Mountain The sixth
annual Ski Patrol Fundrais-
er will be held on Jan. 26. For
more information, visit [crabbe-
mountain.com/events/list](http://crabbe-
mountain.com/events/list).



Skiers are invited
to participate
in the sixth
annual Ski Patrol
Fundraiser.
Photo credit: The
Daily Gleaner.

Learning to survive in the great outdoors

Family-run business offers survival skill training and dog sledding this winter



GET OUTSIDE

Knowlesville Northwoods Survival is a family-run business that offers dog mushing adventure tours in the winter, salmon fishing excursions and organic gardening workshops in the spring and summer, and year-round bushcraft and survival skills training. The company's fall- and half-day dog sled tours run take place in January and February. To arrange an outing or check out workshop offerings, head to northwoodssurvival.com or call 246-5204.

JON MACNEILL

Anyone who comes to Northwoods Survival expecting to learn from New Brunswick's version of Bear Grylls is likely to leave disappointed. But while instructor Jeff Butler won't woo clients with unrealistic scenarios, he will give you the skills you need to make it through a real-world survival situation.

"When you see these so-called survival experts on TV jumping in to rivers and trying to spear salmon and all this other stuff, that's bullshit. That's garbage. That's what gets you killed," said Butler, a retired military man turned wilder-

ness guide and survival instructor.

"It's entertaining the masses, not training the individual. Watching somebody survive for real for an hour would be pretty boring TV — it would be a guy standing in front of a body-length fire melting snow in one of his socks and drinking it out of his hands, waiting to be found."

Butler and his partner Shannon Herbert launched Northwoods Survival out of Knowlesville in 2005. The family-owned operation runs courses on wilderness survival, bushcraft and self-reliant living skills throughout the year, while operating authentic dog mush-

ing adventure tours during winter months.

Butler, who heads the survival skills side of the business, designs his courses around practical and tangible steps people can take to enhance their chances of surviving a life-threatening situation.

He said the programs draw a range of people, from those amped up by reality TV, those looking to become more self-reliant, and families who just want to make sure all their bases are covered while out adventuring.

Northwood's dog mushing service got underway this month, taking parties of up to four people on

full- or half-day excursions about the bush of Carleton County.

They run teams of purebred Canadian Eskimo dogs, one of the rarest breeds in the world and the only one native to Canada.

Butler said they are premier mushing dogs and hold deep significance to Northern cultures.

Patrons have the option of simply enjoying the ride or taking the reins themselves as the team glides through the forest.

"A lot of people just want to enjoy the scenery and just the wonder of watching these amazing animals work," he said. "It's really humbling to be behind these dogs, they're

magnificent."

Aside from the sled dog tours, Butler also guides historical fly fishing trips on the mighty Miramichi River in the spring and summer, while Herbert runs a variety of workshops on organic agriculture.



Northwoods Survival offers dog mushing adventures in the winter. Submitted photo.



Dogs on the trail. Submitted photo.

BUY & TELL

VANESSA GALLANT

This week, Fredericton has a beer that needs a name and some new beach attire for lucky travellers, while Moncton is tearing down an old strip club for new beginnings. Meanwhile, Saint John has a glamour photoshoot special, and sees some great shopping deals at Brunswick Square. Let's take a look at this week's tri-city retail news.

FREDERICTON

The Lunar Rogue Pub

625 King St., 450-2065
Feeling creative despite the winter chill? You might just be able to slip in a last-minute entry in the Lunar Rogue and Picaroons Traditional Ales' contest to name the new Lunar Rogue Picaroons 25th anniversary draught. The beer will be launched at the Rogue the week of Jan. 27, but it needs a name. You can send your ideas in until Jan. 17. It also gives you a chance to win a \$300 Picaroons draught and dinner party for you and five friends. The winner will be selected the week of Jan. 20.



Elle Mio

85 York St., 459-1277
For any ladies who are heading south this winter or spring, Elle Mio is now stocking bathing suits, cover-ups and beach bags. They have several new shipments coming in this month and, if you're sadly not heading south, then head over there and prepare for summer! No matter how long it feels, winter doesn't last forever! Elle Mio also offers lingerie, bras, tights and leggings, shape-wear and more.

MONCTON

Zio's Pizzeria

214 Church St., 855-8888
The Times & Transcript recently reported that Sandro Speranza, the owner of Zio's Pizzeria, has secured ownership of the properties at the corner of Church Street and Mountain Road, including the building that formerly housed the Night Magic strip club. Speranza expressed his plans to tear the building down and build a sit-down or take-home Italian restaurant in its place, a process which could start as early as this month.

The Old Triangle

751 Main St., 384-7474

The Old Triangle took a new year hiatus in order to complete renovations from Jan. 5 to Jan. 10, but has now reopened to take in customers from the cold. The establishment stands ready to welcome Monctonians and visitors for kitchen and bar services.

SAINT JOHN

Brunswick Square Shopping Centre

39 King St., 658-1000

Even if you missed Boxing Day sales, you still might be able to get clothing or other purchases at a great deal. Brunswick Square is holding a winter clearance sale from Jan. 6 to Jan. 25, which will feature clearance items and sales on all three levels.



Alicia Robichaud Photography

81 Seaward Cres., 642-3686
Alicia Robichaud Photography is teaming up with Heartbreak Boutique and Dione Cosmetics to offer a pre-Valentine's Day glamour deal. On Jan. 25, the business will be offering bookings for an hour-and-a-half session including make-up, fashion and photos. The cost is \$120, and that gets you a makeup application by Alisha Anderson of Dione Cosmetics, styling and loan of wardrobe by Heartbreak Boutique and a photoshoot by Alicia Robichaud Photography at the Hotel Hilton Saint John, with 10 five-by-seven prints.

THREE THINGS



MONCTONFIND

The Steeper 18oz.
\$19.50

What is this odd-shaped container? Why, it's the next generation of teapots. The Steeper is BPA-free clear plastic, and it eliminates the need for teabags and filters. You just place your loose tea in the Steeper, and pour boiling water over it. Watch it steep, then place over your cup and watch it filter as it pours. Neat. Found at: **David's Tea**, Champlain Place Mall, 477 Paul St., Dieppe. 858-8806.

SAINTJOHNFIND

Shanghai West Tea Press
\$59.95

Here is something for the hardcore tea drinker. It presses and produces tea on par with what you'd be offered at a tea ceremony in Shanghai. This piece of art in the form of a tea press is available in copper or chrome and comes in sizes to distribute two, four or six cups. As a bonus, this machine is suitable for coffee or tea, to make everyone who pops in for a visit happy. Found at: **The Feel Good Store**, 89 Germain St., 657-6249.



FREDERICTONFIND

Bodum 'Assam' Tea Press
\$29.99

In neglected tea for too long, I don't know why, it was just never on my menu. Over the last couple of years, though, probably because sustained coffee abuse destroyed most of my stomach lining, I've turned to tea as a gut-friendly alternative. My ancestors would be mad at me for saying as much, but the English were right about this drink. Found at: **Sears**, 1381 Regent St., 452-1591.

GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!

DANNY BHOY

BEST INTERNATIONAL ACT
TIME OUT SYDNEY

"One of the most sparkling wits in the world."
MONTREAL GAZETTE

"Possesses the natural charm and intelligence on stage to suggest he will become one of the all time greats."
THE STAGE

Dear Epson...

MARCH 6 · 7:30 pm
Imperial Theatre

IMPERIAL THEATRE BOX OFFICE
506-674-4100 or 1-800-323-SHOW (7469)
imperialtheatre.nb.ca

MARCH 8 · 7 pm · Capitol Theatre

CAPITOL THEATRE BOX OFFICE
506-856-4379 or 1-800-567-1922
capitol.nb.ca



HAHAHA.COM/DANNYBHOY

I Am The Voice contest expands to all three cities

Musicians could win recording contract and \$1,000

JON MACNEILL

I Am The Voice is much more than a tri-city wide talent search. It's about cultivating the next generation of homegrown New Brunswick entertainers.

"I wanted to reach out and see who is out there, and help people develop their careers," said Stephen Gaudet, founder of the 11-week competition. "It's not just a singing contest, there is a whole philosophy behind it."

I Am The Voice is a talent competition that follows a similar format as the NBC reality show of a similar name. This is the third year for the competition, but the first time it has been expanded to Moncton and Fredericton. The first two events were open to anyone in the province, but held in Saint John.

It welcomes performers in Saint John, Moncton and Fredericton to audition at one of four weekly events beginning near the end of

January in each city.

Entrants can perform solo or with live musical accompaniment. The only stipulations are you can't use a drum kit and you have to use your voice.

Those successful during the initial audition phase are given a golden ticket to perform in a second round of blind auditions - where singers perform hidden from sight behind a screen - before a panel of local music professionals.

Next comes the coaching phase, where the local pros work one-on-one with the artists they voted for in preparation for the third round of performances.

The battle round takes place during weeks seven through 10 of the competition. Entrants do their thing once more, but this time each coach selects just two competitors to advance to the grand finale.

The final is judged by a panel of regional industry professionals and

will take place near the end of March or beginning of April. The host city hasn't been selected yet.

The winner receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and a recording contract with a studio based in Moncton. Second and third runners-up score record deals as well.

Gaudet, who runs the competition through his New Brunswick talent agency, I Am The Voice Management, said the whole process leaves a lasting impression on participants.

"You don't have to win these things, and that's the thing we try to stress all through it," said Gaudet.

"As these people go through the different levels, you see them building character, getting stronger, evolving. They come in during the auditions and some of them sing with a very nervous demeanour, so you don't truly hear what they're capable of doing. But through this process, they start overcoming those

THE DETAILS

I Am The Voice is a talent search running in Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John from the end of January to beginning of April. In addition to professional development from a team of coaches throughout the contest, the winner of the 11-week competition receives \$1,000 and a recording contract, with the second and third runners-up taking record contracts as well. Auditions take place once a week for four weeks in each city, running on consecutive Tuesdays in Saint John, Thursdays in Fredericton and Fridays in Moncton.

Two Port City auditions go down at the RBar (2 Charlotte St., 214-7300), beginning Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Fredericton events at the iRock (139 King St., 444-0121) beginning Thursday, Jan. 23.

Moncton dates are at Triangles (234 St. Georges St., 857-8779) beginning Friday, Jan. 24.

All events are open to the public. For more information head to facebook.com/IAMTheVoiceEntertainment.

nerves, and then you watch them develop, and then when they're done with it, even if they don't win, I think it changes them dramatically."



SHANE KOYCZAN

Imperial Theatre
Saturday, February 8 at 8:00 p.m.

You know him from the opening ceremonies of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics where he wowed an audience of over 60,000 people with his piece *We Are More* or maybe from the viral internet hit *To This Day*. Shane Koyczan's works are full of wisdom and humour beyond his years as he beautifully explores life's challenges and triumphs. Performer, poet, activist and Canadian Shane Koyczan has hit the international scene with a splash, and Imperial is proud to host his first performance in Saint John.

Manitoba Music

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IMPERIAL THEATRE

TICKETS: www.imperialtheatre.nb.ca Box Office 674-4100 or 1-800-323-7469



Katelyn MacLean, left, and Lindsay Campbell cuddle up to Varsity Reds mascot Prospect at the game on Friday, Jan. 10.



Brandon Pugh, left, Chris Trefry and Tasha Palmer watch the hockey game between UNB and UPEI on Friday night at the Aitken University Centre.

Victory for UNB

Although University of New Brunswick students might not be calling anything associated with the university a victory due to the recent strike by professors, the school was shining on the ice this past weekend. The Varsity Reds topped the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers 4-2 in

AUS men's hockey conference action at the Aitken University Centre on Friday night, Jan. 10. The team felt comfortable enough with that score to produce it again on Sunday, Jan. 12, against the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus. Photo credits: James West/The Daily Gleaner.



Karlee Gallant, left, and Courtney Strba catch a Varsity Reds victory against the UPEI Panthers on Jan. 10.



Trevor Drisdelle, left, and Steph Lister take in a hockey game at the Aitken University Centre on Friday.



Brad Lyons, left, and Jessica Dunphy watch the UNB Varsity Reds beat the UPEI Panthers 4-2 on Friday night.



Jemma Pryde, left, Jacob Gould and Serge Gaudet enjoy a night at the Aitken University Centre on Friday night to watch some hockey.



Kelsey Hines, left, and Barry McCluskey take in the AUS men's hockey game Friday.



Colin Sentner, left, and Emma Sao Miguel check out the game.

MONCTON

The Klepenkerl

299 Champlain St.,
Dieppe
382-4633

This café and bistro offers traditional German food. It offers treats such as homemade potato wedges with bacon and creamy leek on the side, and bratwurst with sauerkraut and potatoes in a creamy white sauce. There is also fresh coffee and baked goods such as cookies and cakes. Don't forget, every Thursday is Schnitzel Day!

Mystic Moons Books & Brews

729 Ammon Rd.,
Irishtown
Ph. 859-9918

Get totally mystical with hand-crafted items, ritual supplies, books, crystals, herbs, oil, jewelry and more. This shop is one of the only pagan/occult stores in New Brunswick, and touts itself as a "one stop metaphysical shop," specializing in all spiritual paths.

Café Cognito

700 Main St.
Ph. 854-4888

With rare beans delivered nearly every other day in small quantities and then tightly sealed at room temperature, this café has some seriously fresh coffee. It carries locally made Down East Coffee as well. But if you don't like java, the café carries Earl Grey, panfire green Formosa, Darjeeling B.O.P. Himalayan rose and Ceylon B.O.P. orange pekoe teas.

Boutique Recycl'Art & Antiques

149 John St.
Ph. 857-4895

Decorating your apartment and avoiding a cookie-cutter, Ikea catalogue-like vibe can be tough. Thankfully, Boutique Recycl'Art can help, with antique options for every room. Get organized with old bookshelves and cupboards, and make your style dreams come true with 1950s, Victorian and mission-style furniture.

Relish

26 Germain St.
Ph. 645-2333

This restaurant turns the burger into something heavenly. It creates works of art for your mouth, and they are ridiculously tasty. Stop by Relish and grab a gourmet burger. It's the only place in town you can find Le Nordique, with brie cheese, back bacon, caramelized onions and Dijon mustard. What's not to relish?

FREDERICTON

The Dirty Bean

36 Knowlton Cres., Oromocto
261-8638

This roaster just a short drive from the capital city. It roasts beans to order and delivers locally. You can choose how much you want, the grind and type - such as Kama Sumatra, El Grande and Ethiopian. There are many unique blends of coffee roasted and packaged on site.

Boom Nightclub

474 Queen St.
Ph. 463-2666

The spot to go for techno beats and tasty drinks. Whether or not you're a karaoke aficionado, Karaoke Thursdays are fun for every-

one. Toss in a smoke machine, \$7 trips, \$3 Moose bottles and you'll be belting out classics. If you're looking for something more low-key, head there for Social Sundays and open mike night.

Moksha Yoga

440 King St.
Ph. 454-9842

Get ready to stretch and sweat. Moksha Yoga offers tons of sweet classes that cater to both beginners and the advanced. The room is heated to a tropical temperature so you are literally sweating from all pores. It's detoxifying and the movements are amazing for your muscles. If you're new to Moksha, you can get a great deal on an introductory 30-day membership.

Picaroons Brewtique

422 Queen St.
Ph. 457-9062

The Brewtique offers up to six fresh beers on tap to fill your Growler with, as well as Picaroons' entire (in season) bottle lineup. There are also glasses, mugs and T-shirts and other goodies you can pick up for yourself or as a gift.

Geek Chic Boutique

486 Regent St.
Ph. 472-8863

It's no secret that it's chic to be a geek. Embrace your inner geek and announce it to the world. This downtown shop can hook you up with sweet, electroluminescent T-shirts that will light up in response to Wi-Fi signals and music.

a Doctor Who alarm clock and an army knife that includes a 4GB flash drive, so you'll be prepared for any computer-related mishaps that come your way.

SAINT JOHN

Britt's Pub and Eatery

42 Princess St.
214-5335

Here's an English-style pub that boasts a casual atmosphere with tasty munchies, such as curry potatoes, plus a good selection of Picaroons and Pump House products. They have features daily, so stop in regularly!

Church Street Steak House

10 Grannan St.
Ph. 648-2373

In a world where everyone seems to be turning vegetarian, sometimes us carnivore types need a place where we can get back to basics with good, old-fashioned, high-quality steak. Don't worry - Church Street has you covered. Stop by this restored heritage building and chow down on prime rib, pasta, seafood and, of course, steak.

Alley Gria Tapas Bar & Lounge

123 Prince William St.
333-5223

Enjoy a harbour view while sharing plates of appetizers with friends. There are more than 50 different options from cold, hot, house and vegetarian menus. Choose from delicacies such as seafood bruschetta, pork skewers baked in curry mango sauce or artichoke cheese, spinach and tomato dip.

Heartbreak Boutique

120 Germain St.
Ph. 214-5900

The city's vintage-inspired roller derby gear and accessory store definitely has this niche market covered. The shop offers pin-up and rockabilly inspired fashion, apparel and gear. The boutique also carries nice jewelry, cute hats and killer bikinis.

Made You Blush

1 Market Sq.
Ph. 642-6981

This beauty boutique is filled with popular brands of makeup, body care, skin care and makeup accessories. You can also get your make-up done for a special occasion such as grad pictures, weddings, prom, parties - or just for fun. The make-up artists are there to help you learn about the products, makeup trends and application.



Relish co-founders chef Ray Henry, left, and Rivers Corbett are seen here at their Fredericton location. Photo: David Smith/For the Telegraph-Journal.

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DANNY FERNANDES, JRDN
& ALYSSA REID

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From left to right, Théâtre La Cigogne members Isabelle Bartkowiak, Ludger Beaulieu and Bianca Richard act out a scene from *Paul et la Mer*.

Théâtre La Cigogne launches crowdfunding campaign to bring Herménégilde Chiasson's poem to life by Vanessa Gallant

Theatre group adapts 'Icare' for the stage

For Moncton theatre group Théâtre La Cigogne, crowdfunding is a tried and true formula used to support their French-language community theatre projects.

Following their second funding campaign on indiegogo.com – an international online crowdfunding platform – the four company mem-

bers are in the process of adapting the poem "Icare" by New Brunswick poet Herménégilde Chiasson, based on the Greek myth of Icarus, into a musical theatre production.

Théâtre La Cigogne's other members are Isabelle Bartkowiak, Frédéric Melanson and Bianca Richard, who along with Beaulieu, are all graduates from the Université de Moncton's theatre arts program.

In order to adapt "Icare," they brought on Montreal-based writer Matthieu Girard – who is originally from Caraquet – and New Brunswick musician Joey Robin Haché.

"It's the poem that struck us all as being very interesting and dra-

matically rich and we thought, why not give our author a challenge and try to do something interesting with that," said Ludger Beaulieu, a member of Théâtre La Cigogne. "The poem is absolutely interesting in itself. 'Icare' is Icarus in French, and he wrote a poem about that and we're doing a theatre adaptation of his poem."

When Here caught up with Beaulieu last week, the group was in their third day of rehearsals, and he said developing the production would be a comprehensive and intensive process.

"Right now, it's only in development," he said. "We're not sure if

we're going to make a presentation in the first part because it's only a 'creation laboratory.' It's only to find ideas, create, bring the text as far as possible using live rehearsals. Our goal is to have a real production later this year, but right now, it's only in the process of creation."

Haché is also writing music and playing during rehearsals for several weeks in a row, so that the music is created live, alongside the rest of the production. The fundraising campaign on indiegogo, which raised \$1,035 of their \$2,000 goal, was to help fund this creative process, which is running for the month of January.

Théâtre La Cigogne was started by its four members a little more than a year ago in order to promote new theatre artists in the region and help make theatre accessible.

Their first production, *Paul et la Mer* (Paul and the Sea), was produced for teen audiences staged last summer, in the hopes of eventually performing it for schools around the province.

"I don't think there's ever going to be too much theatre – French or English – so I think we're just trying to enrich," said Beaulieu. "There are other companies, obviously, but we're just trying to enrich the arts scene around here."

A&A

HE
ER

GIVING THANKS

Théâtre La Cigogne produced videos on YouTube to personally thank each person or company who made a donation to their upcoming production of *Icare*, while also showcasing their theatrical talents. A link to their videos, as well as more information on the company and upcoming shows can be found in French on their website: theatrelacigogne.com.

COVER STORY

Moncton's HubCap Comedy Festival lets the good times roll by Vanessa Galt

Laughter is the best

Moncton's annual HubCap Comedy Festival has once again recruited some of the best comedians in the business in what organizers call an epic battle against Old Man Winter. This year's festival offers three weekends of midwinter laughs from Jan. 24 to Feb. 8.

There are high hopes for the festival, now in its 13th year, but none so high as that of headliner comedian Harland Williams. When speaking on his career highlights, he men-

tioned one that continues to elude him.

"I'm no virgin to Moncton, although I'm a virgin in real life, which is sad," he said, later adding with a laugh, "Hopefully when I lose my virginity, that will be a highlight. Maybe in Moncton, maybe behind a scallop-cleaning factory, I'll get my lucky break."

On a more serious note, he said he is looking forward to his performance at HubCap, which will double as a sentimental reunion for the now Los Angeles-based comedian.

"My friend John Wing Jr. is opening for me," Williams said. "He was a finalist on *America's Got Talent* this past season and it's just funny. My very, very first road gig when I started doing standup was out on the East Coast in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and I actually opened for John Wing Jr. and we just had a blast. So I'm very excited to be back out

there again working with him. He's super funny, he's a hilarious guy."

Williams also gets his share of laughs, saying his comedic style is "like a hippopotamus trying to go through a revolving door wearing a grass skirt."

He recently co-starred in the film *Back in the Day* as well as a sitcom, *Package Deal*, on City TV. These gigs are just a fraction of his many standup comedy tours, films, sitcoms, his podcast titled "The Harland Highway," and a recent YouTube series titled "60 Second Talk Show."

Hot on his heels in the HubCap lineup is rising star Graham Kay from Ottawa, who may not yet be in the moving pictures, but has many accolades of his own. Kay won the Just for Laughs 2013 Homegrown Comic Competition last July, as well as the 2012 Yuk Yuk's Oktoberfest Competition and the 2011 Steam Whistle Comedy Competition.

Kay said that the high-

light of his career so far has been performing on the same stage as Dave Chappelle.

"It was crazy," he said. "I didn't even know he was going to be on the show, and then all of a sudden he's hosting the show that I'm on. He's listening to my jokes and I could hear him laughing when I'm on stage. I could hear him in the background and then he went on stage and said that specific joke is an instant classic ... He looked at me and says, 'You're really talented,' and I was maybe a year and a half into comedy at the time, so it was surreal. I still haven't topped that."

Kay has also been featured on several sitcoms, is a



Harland Williams



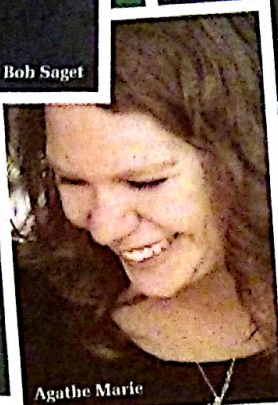
Bob Saget



Nathan Dinitroff



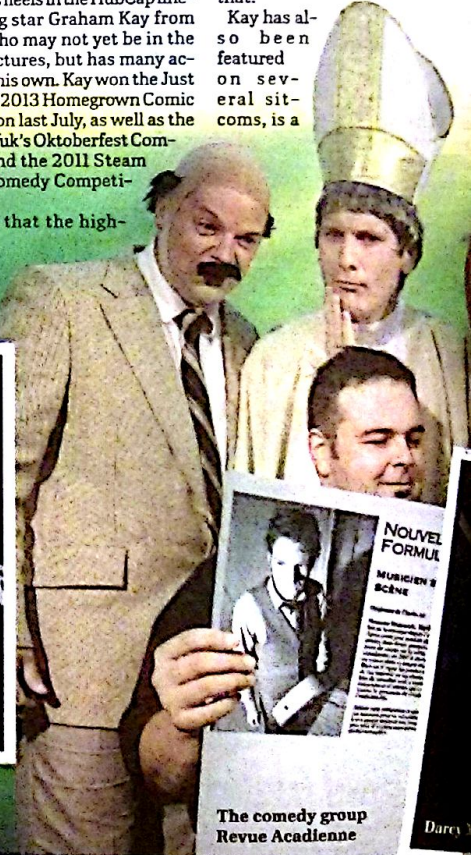
Graham Kay



Agathe Marie



Damonde Tschritter



The comedy group Revue Acadienne

ant medicine

regular on MuchMusic's Video on Demand and wrote for the new CTV sitcom *Spun Out*, starring David Foley. He said a career in standup comedy is a dream he once thought was impossible, a dream inspired by watching Bill Cosby's *Himself* show and other standup comedy with his father.

"Then one day, when I lived in Ottawa, I phoned in to the open mike thing," he said. "Yuk Yuk's had an open mike thing but you had to phone in and before cellphones, you had to hit redial a bunch of times and hope you could get in for the first few every month. They'd be like, 'You're on Wednesday in three weeks, take it or leave it,' and you're like, 'OK!'"

He said after performing in that series a few times, he was hooked, and while he gave it up temporarily to go to university and

try a government job, he spent the whole time wishing he were a standup comedian.

Three years ago, he started doing comedy professionally and has been busy ever since, typically performing five to six nights a week.

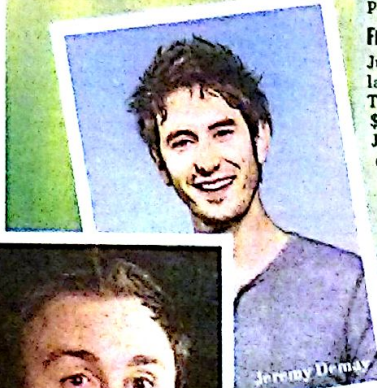
The HubCap Comedy Festival includes performances by dozens of comedians, in French and in English, over the three weekends. The English headliners include Bob Saget, Harland Williams, CBC's *This is That*, John Wing and Dave Merheje, all of whom will have featured theatre shows. The French headliners, presented in partnership with Montreal's *Juste Pour Rire* festival, include Guillaume Wagner, Jeremy Demay and la Revue Acadienne.



Tanyalee Davis



Guillaume Wagner



Jeremy Demay



JC Surette



David Foley

JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 8 2014

HUBCAP

COMEDY FESTIVAL DE L'HUMOUR
24 JANVIER AU 8 FÉVRIER 2014

THEATRE SHOW TIMES

Friday, Jan. 24

HubCap Comedy Festival & Casino NB present Bob Saget at Casino New Brunswick (21 Casino Dr.). Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. \$60 plus tax and fees.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

CJSE amateur competition: l'Acadie juste pour rire held at Le Coude (Université de Moncton Student Centre, 19 Antoinette-Maillet Ave.) at 7 p.m. Entrance is free for students and \$5 for adults.

Thursday, Jan. 30

La Revue Acadienne: Drôle d'impression at the Capitol Theatre (811 Main St.) at 7 p.m. \$34.95 plus tax.

Friday, Jan. 31

Juste pour rire présente: Guillaume Wagner at the Capitol Theatre (811 Main St.) at 7 p.m. \$29.95 plus tax and fees.

Jérémy Demay, "Ça arrête pu d'bien aller" at La Caserne auditorium, Dieppe Arts and Culture Centre (333 Acadie Ave.) at 7 p.m. \$24.95 plus tax and fees (general seating only).

Saturday, Feb. 1

Finale by Productions l'Entrepôt et la Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick, Pays de la Sagouine: Les Maurices at 2 p.m. at La Pays de la Sagouine (57 rue Acadie, Bouctouche). \$12.83, fees included. Gala des Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

at the Capitol Theatre (811 Main St.) at 7 p.m. \$34.95 plus tax and fees.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

CBC Information Morning hosts Open Mike Amateur contest at Pump House Brewery (5 Orange Ln.) at 7 p.m. Free.

Thursday, Feb. 6

Thursday Night for Laughs at the Capitol Theatre (811 Main St.) at 7 p.m. \$39.95 plus tax and fees.

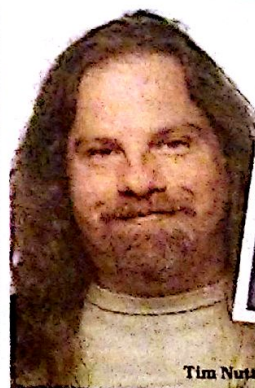
Friday, Feb. 7

Dave Merheje: Family Affairs at La Caserne auditorium, Dieppe Arts and Culture Centre (333 Acadie Ave.) at 7 p.m. \$24.95 plus tax and fees (general seating only). CBC Radio's *This is That* at the Capitol Theatre (811 Main St.) at 7 p.m. \$24.95 plus tax and fees.

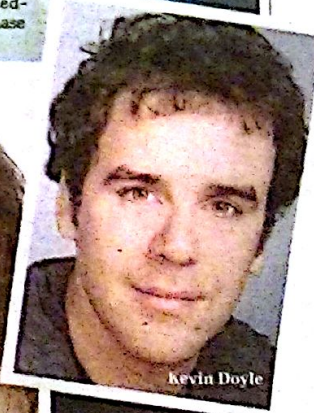
Saturday, Feb. 8

The HubCap Comedy Festival presents: Harland Williams at the Capitol Theatre (811 Main St.) at 7 p.m. \$49.95 plus tax and fees.

There will also be more than 20 bar shows. Check out hubcap-comedyfestival.ca for the full schedule, and to purchase tickets online.



Tim Nolis



Kevin Doyle

COVERSTORY

MUSIC

Shivering Songs growing strong

Music and arts fest includes local and national artists

JON MACNEILL

Last year, they brought you an intimate session with Jian Ghomeshi from CBC Radio's Q. This year, organizers of Shivering Songs bring you brunch with accomplished Canadian author and musician, Dave Bidini.

"It's the first time we've ever done anything like this, and we're pretty excited, where he is such a prolific person, a really prominent Canadian," co-organizer Brendan MaGee said of the Brunch With Bidini contest.

The fourth edition of Shivering Songs takes place from Jan. 24 to 26, at four of Fredericton's top music venues. This year's lineup includes performances from a mix of local, regional and nationally-acclaimed artists, including Thom Swift, Alan Jeffries, Paper Lions and headliners

Kathleen Edwards, Ron Sexsmith, Steve Poltz and Wintersleep, among others.

A running tradition, the Songwriters and Storytellers session takes place on Jan. 25, at Wilmot United Church, and features a literary component from Bidini—who holds the distinction of being the only person to garner nominations for a Gemini, Genie, Juno and CBC's Canada Reads award. MaGee said organizers are offering six patrons the chance to sit down for an intimate Q-and-A with the founding member of Rheostatics over brunch. To enter, send the question you'd most like to ask of Bidini to info@shiveringongs.com.

With upwards of 25 bands performing over the three-day festival, MaGee said Shivering Songs has come a long way from its humble beginnings. At first a largely lo-

cal affair, MaGee said the festival has established itself as a marquis event in the Maritime winter music scene, and is starting to garner more interest from people in Maine and Quebec.

It started as a weekend-long CD release party for Fredericton's Olympic Symphony, mainly a way to break up the dry and, at the time, pretty dull stretch of winter.

MaGee, who joined the small group of organizers for the second edition, said the years since have seen a lot more arts and culture-related events spring up around the city. Most notable is Frostival, which Shivering Songs kicks off this year.

Top right: Modern Grass plays at Wilser's Room during last year's Shivering Songs festival.
Photo credit: Brody LeBlanc.



FESTIVAL DETAILS

Fredericton Shivering Songs Festival takes place from Friday, Jan. 24, to Sunday, Jan. 26. The festival includes performances from John K. Samson, Christine Fellows, Dave Bidini, Rose Cousins and many more. Festival passes have sold out, but individual tickets are available for purchase online at shiveringongs.com. For a full lineup and schedule, head to shiveringongs.com.



Sarah Harmer performs at Wilmot United Church for last year's Shivering Songs festival.
Photo credit: Brody LeBlanc.

Scarlett Jane's storytelling edge

Folksingers Cindy Doire and Andrea Ramolo tour East Coast this month

VANESSA GALLANT

Scarlett Jane might sound like the name of one woman, but it embodies the friendship and collaboration between two talented Canadian songstress.

Cindy Doire and Andrea Ramolo have been friends and singer-songwriters for around a decade since they first met in Toronto. However, it wasn't until a few years ago that they decided to officially become a musical duo, creating Scarlett Jane.

"It's such a perfect name for us because Scarlett represented the fire and the sensuality," said Doire. "Then Jane, on the other hand, is the 'plain Jane' and the Jane Doe and the rock and the strength. So it's the whole spectrum of all women and is all-encompassing."

They have pegged their music "folk noir" because of its roots in honest storytelling, with the occasional darker edge. Though they also say their debut album, *Stranger*, is not all heartbreak.

"We draw from Canadiana, roots music, folk music, old school country, blues, rock 'n' roll, pop, even,"

said Ramolo. "That's why we like to say 'folk noir' because folk music is, in essence, the storytelling—and the noir about it is that there is a bit of darkness in our approach to art and to life and sensuality."

Doire is French-Canadian and Ramolo's parents are from Italy, meaning that languages other than English have come to be a part of their music, as well.

"I have two French albums, those are my first two releases," said Doire, who also knows Spanish. "And then Andrea is first-generation Canadian and her folks are from Italy so we've been incorporating a bit of French, Italian and Spanish in our sets. Especially when we toured Europe, that was a huge asset to our sound."

According to Ramolo, the pair have reached a point in their career where they have matured, stemming from years on the road touring their respective solo albums.

"Not only in the way we present ourselves on stage and the strength of our voices and the guitar playing, but just the songwriting itself. It's so refined at this point," she said.

The pair are planning to continue

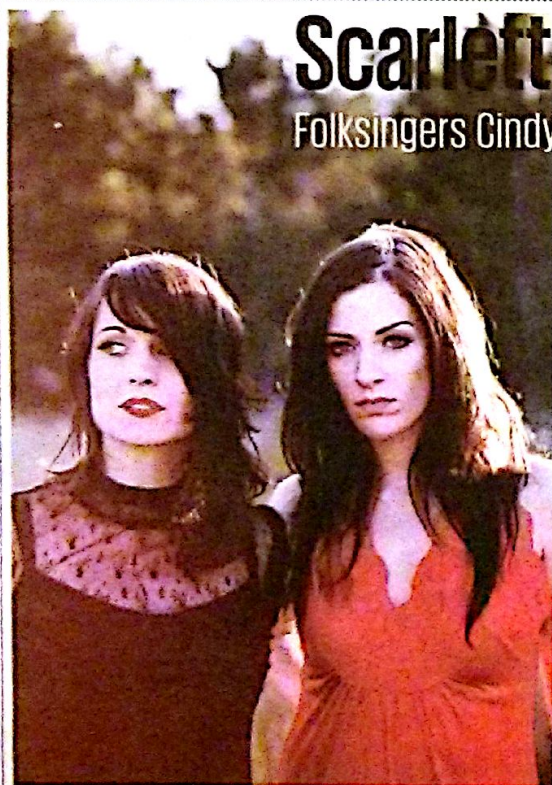


SHOW TIME

Moncton: Don't miss Scarlett Jane's only New Brunswick stop at Plan b (212 St. George St.) on Jan. 23, with doors opening at 9 p.m. \$5 at the door.

that growth, having recently written nine new songs while away in Cuba, which they hope will lay the foundation for their sophomore album.

"Our new songs are just killer," said Ramolo. "We're having so much fun playing them so we're taking some of those songs on the road with us when we come out East."



Scarlett Jane is a 'folk noir' duo. Photo credit: Andrew Knapp.

Music and motherhood

Julie Doiron says baby breathed new life into music

KYLE MULLIN

Cradling a cellphone with one arm and a baby with the other, Julie Doiron breathlessly describes the challenges of juggling motherhood and musicianship.

"Balance? Today, it feels crazy trying to balance everything," Doiron, 41, said with a laugh while gingerly stepping down an icy sidewalk, attempting to finish an interview to promote her upcoming New Brunswick gigs while also taking her daughter to an appointment. "She was having the best nap, and I had to put her in her snowsuit and bring her out here. So she's probably pissed. It's been busy, but I've actually been doing more music than I expected."

The Moncton-born indie rock darling released *So Many Days*, her 10th studio album, in 2012. But it felt like a hurdle rather than a milestone, and touring for the disc quickly began to feel like a burden.

"I felt burnt out from being on the road and being broke all the time, so I decided to take a break. I was pretty convinced that I wasn't going

to do any more shows," Doiron said.

Just as she was easing into retirement, the little youngster intervened. Pregnancy might be enough to make some musicians reconsider their dedication to such an unstable profession, but in this case, the newborn breathed new life into her mother's career.

"When they're napping, you get more things done. If you didn't have kids around you'd say, 'Eh, I'll do that later,'" she said.

But Doiron added that infants provide other more positive forms of reinforcement as well.

"Having a baby motivates you because you get to see them grow. When a baby learns how to roll over, it's amazing and hilarious because they love it so much."

Motherhood will also bring some surprising changes to her live performances — she won't sound like a mellowed elder onstage, instead she intends to prance about like a bratty young punk. Her three upcoming New Brunswick gigs will be supported by the Wrong Guys, a backing band consisting of Eamon McGrath and Cancer Bats members

SHOW TIMES

Fredericton Julie Doiron and The Wrong Guys will perform at The Capital (362 Queen St.), on Thursday, Jan. 16.

Sackville They play at the Stereophonic Festival (George's Roadhouse, 67 Lorne St.) on Friday, Jan. 17.

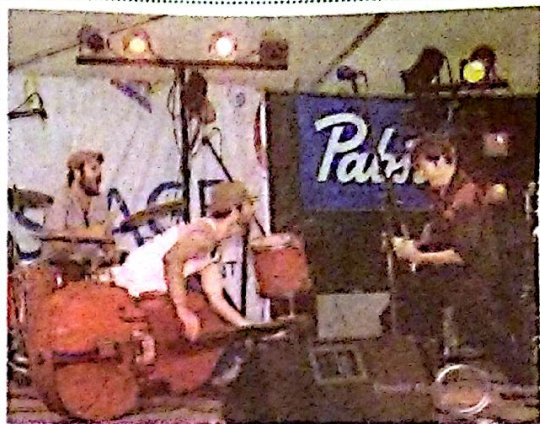
Moncton The group will also hit up The Tide and Boar (700 Main St.) on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Mike Peters and Jaye Schwarzer. Those fellows are all known for their heavy-hitting performances, which stand in sharp contrast to Doiron's recent, folksy singer-songwriter fare.

"When I tour solo, it's for budgetary reasons, or to reconnect with the songs on a simpler level. But a lot of people don't realize that my earlier days were loud rock. Coming back to that feels great, I love it."



Julie Doiron & The Wrong Guys at Cafe Dekaf in Ottawa. Photo credit: Andrew Carver.



Catch the Royaltones' rockabilly in St. Andrews this weekend. Photo credit: David Hodges Photography.

'Rock 'n' roll a little rough around the edges'

The Royaltones reflect on the year that made the band

SHANA GRAVES

The Royaltones have been delivering their own breed of rockabilly for just more than one year, and they're just getting started.

It all started from a one-off gig in Moncton on New Year's Eve heading into 2013, when Aaron Young (bass) and Carey Beck (guitar/vocals) decided to pursue this musical collaboration on a full-time basis. The only thing missing was a drummer. That's when Aaron Bravener joined the crew.

Bravener said a lot has changed for them as a band over the past year.

"We have grown as musicians," he said, adding through playing rockabilly and receiving the amount of requests they do, the band members learned to read each other's playing faster and more accurately than when they started.

Young said throughout the entire experience of starting up the group and performing throughout the province, is they still have fun, still get drunk, and still love the music.

"The Royaltones are just three good ol' boys from the mud of New Brunswick that like our rock 'n' roll a little rough around the edges," he said.

Writing hasn't been a main focus for the band, but they have been working on some original material and have one song available for download on their bandcamp page.

Beck said they haven't had much time for recording, as the Royaltones members also play with other local bands. Young is a part of Dapper Dan and the Drive-In Classics and Bravener plays with Fredericton rock outfit Oh No, Theodore!

Their love for music stretches far beyond rockabilly which is part of what makes this collaboration interesting.

"I'm sort of the old guy in the band," says Beck, who has been part of the rockabilly scene in Canada since the 1990s. "So my musical interests vary from Charlie Patton to Igor Stravinsky, that's why I'm playing with these rock cats, I'm way too boring on my own."

What tunes are emitted from the headphones of the rest of the Royaltones?

"I've been listening to *Foreverly* by Norah Jones and Billie Joe Armstrong, *Certain Death* by Heartless and the new Belle Comedians EP *Charlotte*," Bravener said.

As for Young, "I have Danzig playing in my truck lately."

SHOW TIMES

St. Andrews The Royaltones are playing at the Red Herring Pub (211 Water St.) on Jan. 17 and 18. 529-8453.

Year of Glad to release album in coming months

Montreal-based group's ethereal sound continues on *Old Growth*

SHANA GRAVES

These guys meld otherworldly strums, melodies and quiet lyrics with a temperamental, heavier musical backdrop. The result is emotional and sway-worthy.

Get ready for Montreal-based Year of Glad, making its way through the three major centres of New Brunswick this week. The four-piece band is made up of A.P. Bergeron (vocals), Nick Laughner (drums), Aaron Johnstone (guitar) and Andre Bendahan (bass).

They may be based in Montreal, but are originally from Nova Scotia, and only moved to the big city a few years ago. This is where Bergeron connected with friends Laughner, Johnstone and Bendahan, and started writing songs and playing loads of shows around Montreal.

"We've played live a ridiculous amount since coming together," said Bergeron, "probably too much."

Over the past year, Year of Glad has been working on an upcoming album, *Old Growth*, which Bergeron said should be released within the next couple of months, if all goes well.

"We've been working on it steadily at various studios and at home," he said.

This will be Year of Glad's second release, following its four-track, seven-inch *Fave/Drawbackdoors* release last year.

Side A of *Fave/Drawbackdoors* starts with "Arts, Darts & Paintings" which sets an ambient tone before it heads into the heavier guitars and haunting vocals on the next track, "Fave." Similar to

their previous release, Bergeron said listeners can expect sprawling orchestral-style songs and some strange ambient pieces from their upcoming release.

While *Old Growth* will be available digitally on the Year of Glad bandcamp page, the band will also be releasing the album on vinyl through its very own record label, Cereabowl.

Bergeron said the band is hoping to tour Western Canada as well as the U.S. in support of its upcoming release.

In the meantime, head over to the Year of Glad bandcamp page and listen to *Fave/Drawbackdoors*, and keep an ear to the ground for a remix the group is currently working on for Montreal-based Saxsyndrum.

SHOW TIMES

Moncton Year of Glad will be playing at Plan b (212 St. George St.) with Motherhood and another Montreal-based band, Smokes, on Thursday, Jan. 16, 9 p.m.

Saint John They will also be playing at Peppers Pub (1 Market Sq.) on Friday, Jan. 17. Doors at 10:30 p.m., show starts at 11 p.m. \$5 at the door.

Fredericton Catch the band at The Capital (362 Queen St.) on Saturday, Jan. 18. \$7 at the door. Show starts at 10:30 p.m.



A.P. Bergeron, left, Nick Laughner, Andre Bendahan and Aaron Johnstone make up Year of Glad. Photo credit: Nicolas Bergeron.



Band members Patrick Cruvellier, left, Nick Maas and Jeremy MacCulsh perform. Photo credit: Lauren Cruvellier.

Smokes' tunes hold strong messages

Heavy guitar and sweet strings take listener on ride

KYLE MULLIN

Deer are famous for their instant paralysis in the face of bright lights. Nick Maas, by contrast, has learned to pour the adrenalin of the spotlight into fight rather than flight, and rather than a frozen fawn, becomes a howling beast.

"People seem to like the song 'Deer in Headlights,' from our new EP," Maas, songwriter for Montreal-based indie rock troupe Smokes, said of the track from his band's latest disc, *Unlucky*. "It's a really high-energy song with a driving beat. Maybe people respond to the vocals, too. I go a bit crazy in that song and scream a bunch."

The disc was released this past November, and now the group is touring its new material in New Brunswick alongside Fredericton's Motherhood, and Year of Glad — also from Montreal. Smokes is made up of Maas on vocals and guitar, Patrick Cruvellier on violin and Jeremy MacCulsh on drums.

Maas said the inspiration from "Deer in Headlights" stems from occasions when he felt cornered.

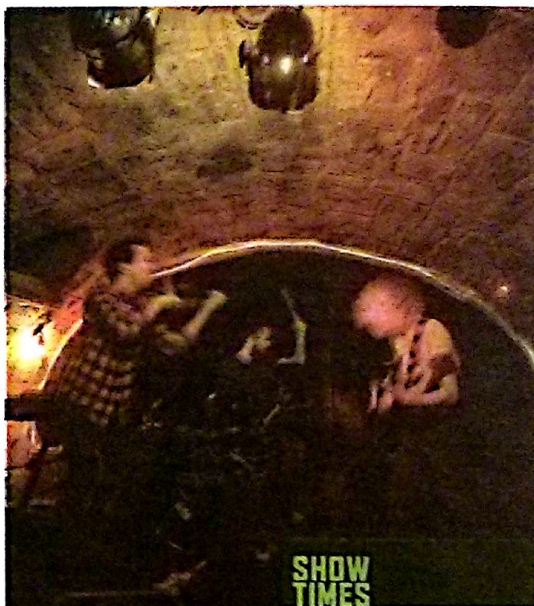
"It's really personal to me," he said of the lyrics, adding that his ties with those words feel especially strong when he is struggling onstage.

"Sometimes I focus on the wrong things and get lost in my head. More often than not, this will coincide with a thoroughly dissatisfying and bewildering night in the grip of some dawn-forgotten room. It's about that."

But he would accept such issues any day, especially when faced with the circumstances of Smokes' most terrible gig of all.

"We didn't even end up playing our worst show, because the other band decided to play somewhere else instead," Maas said. "There was literally no one there. It sucked."

But the members of Smokes breathe the such wispy melancholy in,



Smokes members Patrick Cruvellier, left, Jeremy MacCulsh and Nick Maas rock out on stage. Photo credit: Lauren Cruvellier.

even if it stings the lung and the eye. It's simply in the air, even at the best of times.

"Our best show, for me, was at an amazing local loft spot called La Brique, which sadly is no more. That's a growing problem here," he said of the good times at music venues that struggle to keep their doors open.

He may despair its closure, but he'll always look back on it fondly, especially during that glorious gig.

"There were six bands. A ton of people came out and helped make

SHOW TIMES

Moncton Smokes will be playing at Plan b (212 St. George St.) on Thursday, Jan. 16, 9 p.m.

Saint John They will also be playing at Peppers Pub (1 Market Sq.) on Friday, Jan. 17. Doors at 10:30 p.m., show starts at 11 p.m. \$5 at the door.

Fredericton Catch the band at The Capital Complex (362 Queen St.) on Saturday, Jan. 18. \$7 at the door. Show starts at 10:30 p.m.

the event magical. "Motherhood played that show. That's how we met them and why we're playing in New Brunswick coming up."

REVIEWS



Bruce Springsteen
High Hopes
(Columbia Records)

○ Bruce Springsteen's fifth studio recording *High Hopes* is a return to the classic rock sound of his first two albums. Thirty years after *Born in the U.S.A.*, Springsteen is still going strong. He may be fighting to remain one of his most credentialed acts of productivity, but he's still got it. "Harry's Place," about a musician, has sounds that are as raw as the best of his work. *High Hopes* lives up to its title.

—CHARLES MANDEL



Various Artists
Songs of Anarchy, Vol. 3
(Columbia Records)

○ Volume 3 of the *Songs of Anarchy*, the soundtrack to the violent television series *Songs of Anarchy*, is surprisingly mellow and sometimes downright melancholy. The album of largely covers features some pleasant surprises, including Leonard Cohen performing "Come Healing" and Billy Valentine turning out a very credible "(Sitting On) the Dock of the Bay." On the other hand, the less said about Andra Mae's horrible cover of Sly Stone's "Everyday People" the better. Accompanying most of the songs are the Forest Rangers.

—CHARLES MANDEL



Switchfoot
Finding West
(Warner Music Canada)

○ Switchfoot have been nothing but consistent in the 11 years since their breakthrough record *The Beautiful Letdown*. In the never-ending quest to further themselves, the group takes some delightful left turns on *Finding West*. On songs like "Who We Are" and "Let It Out," the group incorporates hints of electronic music, turning in a couple of rather pop-oriented songs. The pop direction doesn't always work for the group ("Slipping Away,") but with opening track "Love Alone Is Worth The Fight" and "Saltwater Heart," the group delivers on what fans have come to expect from the band.

—KEN KELLEY



Rosanne Cash
The River & The Thread
(Universal Music Canada)

○ The first studio record since her triumphant 2009 record *The List*, Rosanne Cash does not disappoint with *The River & The Thread*. A sentimental, contemplative effort inspired by southern U.S. people and places, the pictures Rosanne paints with her words are vivid, timeless and occasionally haunting. The music itself is the perfect accompaniment to the lyrics, a mixture of blues, roots and some gospel music. A solid effort from front to back, album highlights include "A Feather's Not A Bird," "When the Master Calls the Roll" and the simply arranged "Tell Heaven."

—KEN KELLEY



Nadie
Remember This
(Independent)

○ Contrary to what you might believe by country music radio today, there are still plenty of artists out there who proudly hold the classic country torch high. In Atlantic Canada, P.E.I.'s Nadie is the head of the class. The music on *Remember This* owes a great debt to the likes of Willie Nelson, Hank Williams and Merle Haggard. Although there is little denying the musical similarities, Nadie's simplistic approach to the instrumentation heard on these 12 songs is a welcome breath of fresh air, ultimately returning country music to its rightful roots.

—KEN KELLEY

Q+A

KEN KELLEY

Fresh off a holiday appearance last month on *Late Night With Jimmy Fallon* alongside the likes of Iron & Wine, Calexico and Glen Hansard, Kathleen Edwards is ready to slow down. It's not that she is not extremely grateful for the past 10-plus years that have allowed her to produce four critically acclaimed records, including 2012's stellar *Voyageur*. It's just time to pause and reflect. But before she can get to "Kathleen time," the talented singer-songwriter performs at Fredericton's Wilmet United Church (473 King St.) on Friday, Jan. 24,

as part of the Shivering Songs Festival. Kathleen spoke with *Hera Magazine* from her Ottawa home last week.

It has now been almost two years since the release of *Voyageur*. Are you in the process of writing new material for your next record?

I had heard so much good about *Shivering Songs* that I wanted to get out to play. To be honest, I am otherwise taking a break from thinking about making records and touring plans. I am feeling a little burned out and just need to be still for a while. I moved back to Ottawa this past fall, bought a house and got a dog. It's time to nurture myself.

Is this your first significant break since *Faller* (Edwards' 2003 debut)?

Yes, it is. It has been a long time writing. I love playing music and have had the chance to play with a lot of great people and reap a lot of rewards. But I also think it will be good to step back both mentally and physically from all

that playing music entails.

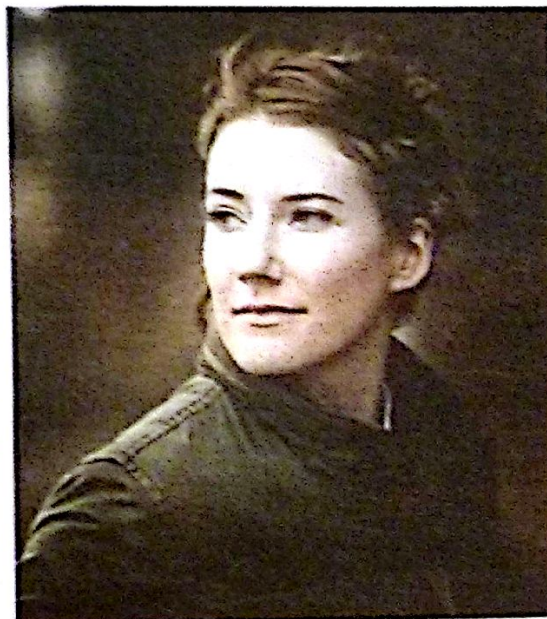
Voyageur was an intensely personal record that documented a tough time in your life. I can't imagine how hard it must have been to be on stage singing those songs night after night.

The record's subject matter was definitely close to home but I don't think that I have ever really made a record that wasn't deeply personal. *Voyageur* was very much me firing on all cylinders, but there were different things happening in my life at the same time. I'm very proud of the record but it did leave me feeling vulnerable.

Is it nice being back home in Ottawa?

I fought the desire to move back here for so long. I wish I hadn't. I loved living in Toronto, but I was missing the feeling of being home and settled. I can have dinner with my family and see my niece and nephew any time I want. It's great.

@ Ken Kelley is a Moncton-based writer, music fanatic and author of the entertainment blog *musicnerd.ca*.



Ottawa's Kathleen Edwards is performing at this year's Shivering Songs Festival in Fredericton. Submitted photo.

FREDERICTON

Friday, Jan. 17

Dissectional (Tool tribute). The Capital, 362 Queen St. 459-3558. \$11.99 advance, available at capital. etixnow.com. \$15 at door. Doors at 8 p.m. Show at 9 p.m.

The Meds. Kurtis Eugene. Handful of Blues. The Cellar Pub & Grill, 21 Pacey Dr. 451-1009. \$5. 6 p.m.

Tay Creek Folk Festival Fund-raiser w/ Paula Tozer. Eric LeBlanc. George Steeves. David Somerville, and more. Wilser's Room, 362 Queen St. 459-3558. \$10. 7:30 p.m.

Jess Darrah. DJ Purdy's, 225 Woodstock Rd. 451-7935. 7 p.m.

The Frequency. Dolan's Pub, 459 King St. 454-7474.

Acoustic Night (performers welcome). Blue Room, Student Union Building, 21 Bailey Dr. 7 p.m. Email recruiting@chsrfm.ca for more details.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Motherhood. Year Of Glad. Smokes. The Capital, 362 Queen St. 459-3558. \$7.10:30 p.m.

Socially Exceptional. Monark. Ju-b. The Cellar Pub & Grill, 21 Pacey Dr. 451-1009. \$5. 6 p.m.

Maggie's Farm Revival. James Joyce Irish Pub, 659 Queen St. 450-9820. 9 p.m.

The Frequency. Dolan's Pub, 459 King St. 454-7474.

Ross Neilsen Band. Crabbe Mountain, 50 Crabbe Mountain Rd. 463-8311. 3 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 19

Karaoke w/ Sean Burgess. Lava Vodka Bar, 375½ King St. 10 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20

Margarita Mondays. Mexicali Rosa's, 304 King St. 451-0686. Live entertainment at 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Open Mike Night w/ Rich Gloade. Wilser's Room, 362 Queen St. 459-3558. 10 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Mountain Chicken. Wilser's Room, 362 Queen St. 459-3558. \$5. 9 p.m.

Open Mike Night w/ Anthony Gray. Mama's Pub, 500 Brookside Dr. 450-4303. 8 p.m.

IY's Music Circle. Mexicali Rosa's, 304 King St. 451-0686. 8 p.m.

Late Night Orchestra. Dolan's Pub, 459 King St. 454-7474. 8 p.m.

Karaoke w/ Amanda Steeves.

iRock, 339 King St. 444-0121. 8 p.m.

Student Night w/ DJ Noematus. Lava Vodka Bar, 375½ King St. 10 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23

Sissy & The Hobos. Nick Ferrio & Illis Feelings. Jacob Augustine. Wilser's Room, 362 Queen St. 459-3558. No cover. 7:30 p.m.

I Am The Voice auditions. iRock, 339 King St. 444-0121. \$5. 8 p.m.

Ten Mile House. Dolan's Pub, 459 King St. 454-7474.

Molson Ultimate Karaoke Dance Party. Boom Nightclub, 474 Queen St. 463-BOOM. No cover. 9 p.m.

SAINT JOHN

Friday, Jan. 17

Motherhood. Year of Glad. Smokes. Peppers Pub, 1 Market Sq. 657-THAI. \$5. Doors open at 10:30 p.m. Show at 11 p.m.

Sunday Punch. O'Leary's Pub, 46 Princess St. 634-7135.

Eddy Gouchie. The Red Herring Pub, 211 Water St., St. Andrews. 529-8455. 4:30-7:30 p.m.

The Royaltones. The Red Herring Pub, 211 Water St., St. Andrews. 529-8455. 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Grand Theft Bus. Peppers Pub, 1 Market Sq. 657-THAI. \$12.99 advance, available online. \$15 at door. Doors at 10:30 p.m. Show at 11 p.m.

Pegasus. Taco Pica, 96 Germain St. 633-8492. 7-9 p.m.

Wayne Hansen and Pat LePoidevin. Taco Pica, 96 Germain St. 633-8492. 10 p.m.

Generators. Fish and Brews Pub, 800 Fairville Blvd. 635-8506.

Sunday Punch. O'Leary's Pub, 46 Princess St. 634-7135.

The Royaltones. The Red Herring Pub, 211 Water St., St. Andrews. 529-8455. 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 19

Open Mike Night with Sean Roach. Cougars Lounge, 1 Market Sq. 693-6666.

Karaoke Night w/ Melanie Pitre. The Somerset Pub, 229 Church-ill Blvd. 674-1667. 9 p.m.

Lazy Sunday Live Music. Callahan's Pub, 2 Princess St. 634-0366. 2:30 p.m.

Open Mike Night. Callahan's Pub, 2 Princess St. 634-0366. 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20

Margarita Mondays. Mexicali

Rosa's, 88 Prince William St. 652-5252. Live entertainment at 10 p.m.

Open Jam w/ Kendra Gale. The Red Herring Pub, 211 Water St., St. Andrews. 529-8455.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Open Mike w/ Brent Mason. O'Leary's Pub, 46 Princess St. 634-7135.

Open Mike. Shiretown Publicans, 274 Main St., Hampton. 832-1782.

Thursday, Jan. 23

Boom Boom Night w/ DJ506. The Red Herring Pub, 211 Water St., St. Andrews. 529-8455. 10:30 p.m.

MONCTON

Friday, Jan. 17

Jazz w/ Les Improbables. Plan b, 212 St. George St. 384-2019. 6 p.m.

Dennis Ellsworth & The Dwellers. Plan b, 212 St. George St. 384-2019. 9 p.m.

B.A. Johnston Birthday Bash w/ Bad Vibrations. Mother. Jugs & Speed. The Esquire Tavern, 2 Reade St. 855-2944. 10 p.m.

Old School. The Old Triangle Irish Alehouse, 751 Main St. 384-7474. 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Heethcliff. Eastcoast Love Story. Le Caveau, basement of 700 Main St. 204-6231. 10 p.m.

The North Lakes. Julie Doiron and the Wrong Guys. The Meds. Tide and Boar Gastropub, 700 Main St. 857-9118.

Old School. The Old Triangle Irish Alehouse, 751 Main St. 384-7474. 9:30 p.m.

DJ tRENNd. Triangles Bar & Nightclub, 234 St. Georges St. 857-8779. \$6 after 11 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 19

Jazz w/ Moncton Mingus Band. Plan b, 212 St. George St. 384-2019. 7 p.m.

Sunday Seisun. The Old Triangle Irish Alehouse, 751 Main St. 384-7474. 4 p.m.

Open Mike Night. The Esquire Tavern, 2 Reade St. 855-2944.

Monday, Jan. 20

Luc Mills. Plan b, 212 St. George St. 384-2019. 9 p.m.

Marco Rocca. St. James' Gate Restaurant, 14 Church St. 388-4283. 10:30 p.m.



Saint John-area folk singer-songwriter Wayne Hansen teams up with indie-folk stalwart Pat LePoidevin on Saturday, Jan. 18, at Taco Pica in uptown Saint John. Submitted photo.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Olenka and the Autumn Lovers. Baby Eagle. Plan b, 212 St. George St. 384-2019. 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Glorious Sons. Plan b, 212 St. George St. 384-2019. 9 p.m.

Brendan Furlotte. The Old Triangle Irish Alehouse, 751 Main St. 384-7474. 8 p.m.

Student Nights w/ Steve LeBlanc. Le Caveau, basement of 700 Main St. 204-6231. 10 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23

Scarlett Jane. Plan b, 212 St. George St. 384-2019. 9 p.m.

Karaoke w/ Ryan. Triangles Bar & Nightclub, 234 St. Georges St. 857-8779. 10:30 p.m.

Open Mike Night. Bridge Street Café, 8 Bridge St., Sackville. 536-4428.



Looking is a comedy is about three gay friends in San Francisco who are each at different points in their lives.

HBO's two additions to Sunday night TV

True Detective and Looking bring compelling storylines to channel

ALEXANDRA DAVIS

HBO is getting a couple of additions to its Sunday lineup this month, along with the return of *Girls*. *True Detective* premiered last Sunday, and another new series, *Looking*, will premiere this week.

True Detective is a dark crime drama about two detectives, Rust Cohle (Matthew McConaughey) and Martin Hart (Woody Harrelson) investigating a murder connected to a possible serial killer.

While the main action of the premiere takes place in the mid-'90s, it's also framed with interviews in the present day as Cohle and Hart recall the events of the case. Aside from the whole tracking down a serial killer thing, the show is a character study of the two detectives.

In addition to the movie star-calibre cast, *True Detective* is set apart by its short eight-episode season, and by the fact that each episode is written by the show's creator, Nic Pizzolatto and directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga. This makes it seem like it will be more of an extended film than a typical television show.

HBO's other new series, *Looking*, is going for a much different tone. This comedy is about three

SHOW TIMES

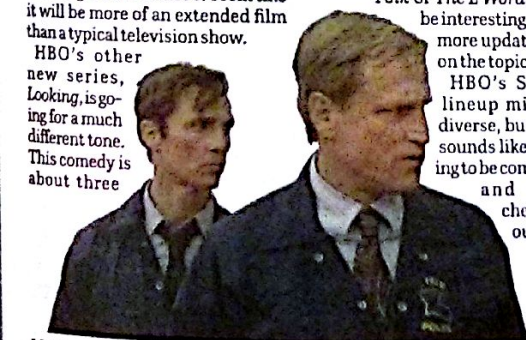
True Detective airs on HBO Canada on Sundays at 10 p.m.

Looking premieres on HBO Canada on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 11:30 p.m.

gay friends in San Francisco who are each at different points in their lives. Patrick (Jonathan Groff) is getting back into the dating world after the end of a long-term relationship; Agustin (Frankie J. Alvarez) is questioning his monogamous relationship; and Dom (Murray Bartlett) is heading into middle age with unfulfilled romantic and professional dreams.

Surprisingly, even though gay characters have become increasingly prevalent on television, there really haven't been many shows that have specifically focused on gay culture in recent years, since the end of series such as *Queer as Folk* or *The L Word*. It will be interesting to see a more updated take on the topic.

HBO's Sunday lineup might be diverse, but it also sounds like it's going to be compelling and worth checking out.

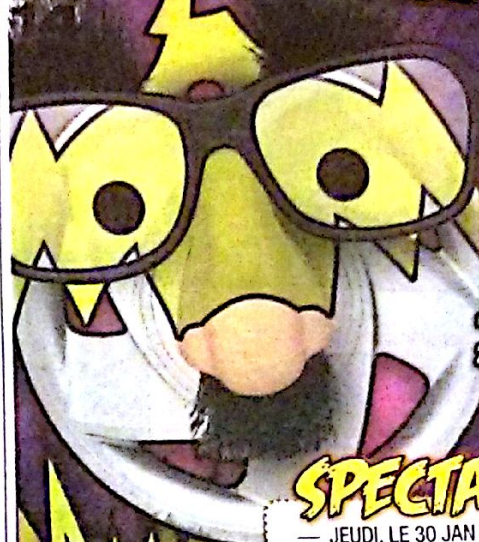


Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson star in *True Detective*.

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GUILLAUME
WAGNER

— VENDREDI, LE 31 JAN 2014 À 20 H —
LA CASERNE

JEREMY DEMAY

ÇA ARRÊTE PU D'BIEN ALLER

— SAMEDI, LE 1 FÉV 2014 À 19 H —
THÉÂTRE CAPITOL

LE GALA DES
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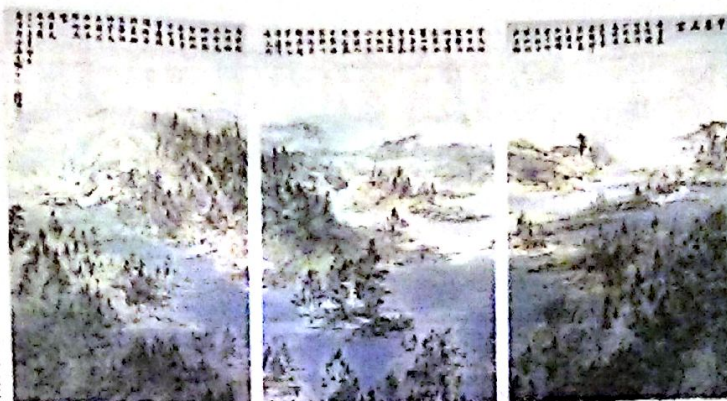
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ARTS



SAINT JOHN

Documenting the Landscape of Saint John

The Saint John Arts Centre has a new exhibition by Dan Xu, titled *Documenting the Landscape of Saint John*, which opens Jan. 17 and runs until March 7. Dan Xu is originally from China and this exhibition uses the traditional Chinese painting method. According to Xu's artist statement, the exhibition "is an appreciation of the beauty and natural perfection of the landscape of the Greater Saint John area." The art centre's other new shows include *Wood Turnings* by Peter Kinsella, monoprints and paintings by Nathan Cann and *The Art of Collecting*. **Saint John Arts Centre, 20 Peel Plaza, 633-4870.**
Photo credit: Saint John Arts Centre.

MONCTON

Learn to hand-spin wool

If you love knitting or are thinking of learning this year, why not also learn how to spin your own wool? London-Wul Fibre Arts offers a variety of classes and workshops, and the shop/studio has a day spinning class coming up on Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It costs \$75 (plus tax) per day, plus your selected materials, which organizers ask that you purchase at London-Wul to support their studio sessions. **1937 Melanson Rd., Lakeburn, 382-6990, thewoolworks.blogspot.ca**
Photo credit: Stock photo.



SAINT JOHN

Redeemed

Photographer James Wilson will be bringing his exhibition, *Redeemed*, to the City of Saint John Gallery this month, with the opening reception on Jan. 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will be on display until March 8. The photographs document the re-creation of the Fred Ross Mural at University of New Brunswick Fredericton, and the exhibition was displayed at the UNB Arts Centre last November. Wilson, a long-standing friend of Fred Ross, documented the restoration from its earliest stages, bringing to the reader an immediate sense of the process through his revealing photographic essay. There will also be a book launch of *Redeemed*, published by Goose Lane and edited by William Forrester. **City of Saint John Gallery, 20 Peel Plaza, 633-4870.**
Photo credit: University of New Brunswick

FREDERICTON

Downtown Gallery Hop

Fredericton's Frostival has several weeks' worth of exciting events, and festival organizers did not neglect the arts. As part of Frostival, there will be a downtown gallery hop on Jan. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m., which allows you to visit three of Fredericton's galleries free of charge. The galleries include the Charlotte Street Arts Centre (732 Charlotte St.), Gallery 78 (798 Queen St.), and Ingrid Mueller Art and Concepts (98 Regent St.), and they showcase some of the best works of artists from New Brunswick and beyond. Photo credit: John Cardoso and Guy Vezina, artist, are shown at the Charlotte Street Arts Centre in December. James West/The Daily Gleaner.

FREDERICTON

Knits for your growler

When making the trek to Picaroons or another favourite brew shop, and then back home in the cold with a heavy, full growler of beer, one needs all the help they can get. Knitting instructor Trish Campbell is offering a half-day workshop (1 to 4 p.m. on Jan. 26) on how to knit a growler bag as part of Adventures Fredericton and Fredericton Frostival. It is open to all levels of knitting at Yarns on York, and costs \$50 per person. Register for this event and other Adventures winter workshops at adventures.ca. Yarns on York, 72 York St., 456-9183. Photo credit: adventures.ca



MONCTON

Portfolio development

Are you an artist or artist hopeful needing some help creating or updating a portfolio? McKenzie College School of Art and Design is holding a portfolio development day on Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. While it is largely aimed at those who have started their application process to attend the college, it is also open to anyone looking to pursue a career in the art and design field and who is over the age of 18. It's free to attend, though you must preregister online or by calling the college. Organizers encourage visual artists to bring a pencil, sketchpad and any past work. Graphic designers should come pencil in hand, along with past art, design work and a laptop if you have one, and photographers should bring their camera and past photos. McKenzie College, 100 Cameron St., 384-8460. mckenzie.edu/portfolioday Photo credit: McKenzie College.



An untitled painting by Skylar Richard. Richard used a variety of recycled paint, playing on the sometimes unpredictable interactions between the formats and colours. Photo credit: Vanessa Gallant.

The quest for a solo art exhibit

Skylar Richard takes destiny into own hands through fundraising

VANESSA GALLANT

Not many people can make \$2,000 in eight days, but Moncton artist and graphic design student Skylar Richard estimates that's how long it took for his Kickstarter campaign to finance his first solo art exhibit to reach its goal.

Using mostly recycled paint, Richard decided to create a solo exhibit of 50 expressionist and abstract works over the course of several months. Richard decided to use Kickstarter — an online funding platform for creative projects — to get a potential funding boost for his project. While gathering the recycled materials, he still found himself lacking funds for materials.

"I kind of had the idea to do things like this before, but it was dormant for a while," said the 25-year-old. "Well, it was dormant because I didn't have the money for all of the materials but then I heard about Kickstarter and a professor here (at McKenzie College), Joel Culligan, helped me with a video."

His crowdfunding campaign's goal was \$2,000 but with 33 hours

to go he was already at a comfortable \$2,440. His funding project started on Dec. 16 and closed Jan. 15.

Richard is currently studying graphic design at McKenzie College of Art and Design and he said the college has been very supportive of his goals, including lending him short-term studio space, where he has already started his series of paintings.

The paintings themselves show a variety of colour blending and texture, something Richard partially attributes to the interactions between various kinds of paints, but also to specific techniques. The recycled paint he had picked up from a previous job at a recycling depot included leftover cans of interior and exterior paint, varying in colour and density.

"There is another (piece of work) that I did and that one really made a lot of cool blending effects and it's because I really had an idea of which paints were interacting with others," he said, while gesturing to one of his first paintings, where colours experimentally bled together

and overlapped.

However, while demonstrating one of his latest works, pictured, he said he had moved to more of a knife technique that was about completing individual layers to create texture.

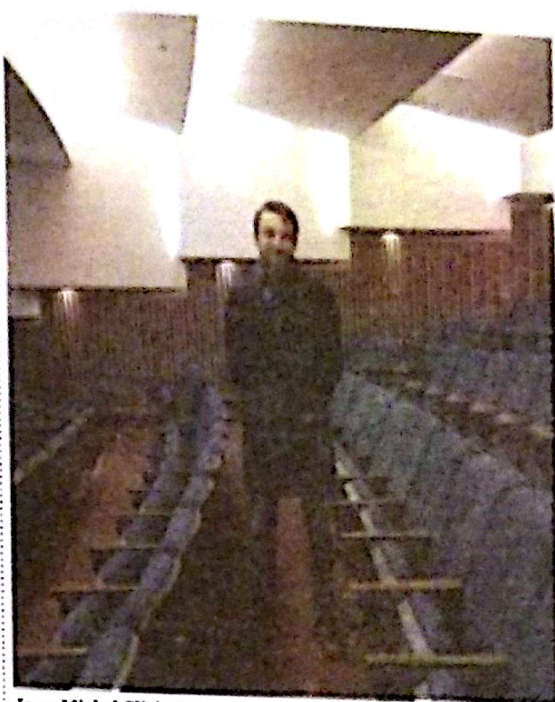
Richard has not yet made arrangements for a venue in which to display his solo exhibit, but anticipates spending the next few months completing the series, which he called a dream come true.

"Nowadays it takes an established name to earn a solo exhibit. I'd like to change that paradigm, or at least serve as an exception to the rule, in order to inspire young artists to take a risk and pursue a difficult goal like my own," he said, on his Kickstarter page. "I'm hoping that this will open new doors and help make future goals come to fruition."



Skylar Richard displays one of his paintings, part of the series he hopes to use as his first solo exhibit. Photo credit: Vanessa Gallant.

THEATRE



Jean-Michel Cliche is the producer of the Next Folding Theatre Company's creative collaboration this year. Submitted photo.

Quarantine Island takes the stage

Next Folding Theatre Company presents annual Creative Collaboration project

JON MACNEILL

The Next Folding Theatre Company opens its 2014 season with a story of fear, courage, disease and healing from the heart of New Brunswick.

That's the tagline for the company's upcoming production, *Quarantine Island, 1847*, a show based on a little-known tragedy which took place on a small island off Miramichi.

In the summer of 1847, a ship bound for the New World was overcome with an outbreak of typhoid and scarlet fever.

By the time the vessel reached the Atlantic coastline, some 150 of its 500 passengers had perished. Desperate to seek aid for the sick, the captain tried to dock at several ports, but local authorities refused his entry, fearing contamination on the mainland.

The captain was forced to set up refuge on Middle Island, a small land mass just outside the settlement at Miramichi, where a full quarantine was enacted.

No one was allowed off the island, and those who tried were shot down in the river.

The show is the fourth edition of

Next Folding's Creative Collaboration, where six local artists work together to write, produce and act in a production based on historical happenings from the region.

This year's work comes from Matthew Chiasson, James Corbett, Sam Crowley, Elizabeth Goodyear, Tricia Harritty and M. Holmes-Lauder, two of whom hail from Miramichi.

Each contributor writes one scene for the six-act play, reflecting their take on the event and different theatrical styles.

Past collaborations have centred on one significant person from New Brunswick's past, presenting six different perspectives on the character.

Jean-Michel Cliche, producer on the project, said this year's team was drawn to the freedom they'd have exploring an event with so many angles and actors.

"We're looking at one whole event that encompasses a huge variety of people, including the infected and the civilians in Miramichi who have to deal with this burden that's been thrust upon them, and whether they're supposed to help the people on this island or protect themselves," Cliche said.

"We show the actual infected and what that lifestyle was like, and seeing how hard it was for these people you could think, 'Yeah, they should definitely be let off the island.' And then the next scene is a bunch of people in Miramichi scared for their lives and tasked with protecting this community they have, whether that means enforcing it with a penalty of death.

"So we get a feel for everyone, and that it was hard on all sides."

SHOW TIMES

Fredericton The Next Folding Theatre Company presents *Quarantine Island, 1847* from Wednesday, Jan. 22, to Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Charlotte Street Arts Centre (732 Charlotte St., 454-6952). The show is the company's annual Creative Collaboration, written, directed and performed by six local artists. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors. Show time is 8 p.m. each night.

MONCTON

Tuesday, Jan. 21, to Thursday, Jan. 23

When one show ends, another begins. McSweeney's Dinner Theatre starts its next show on Friday, Jan. 24, and tickets are set at a discounted price from Tuesday, Jan. 21, until Thursday, Jan. 23. You can buy your ticket for any show between Jan. 24 and May 10 for \$10 off. The show that graces the dinner theatre stage for the next few months is titled *Does Your Mother Know?* - about a family that runs a whisky distillery. **McSweeney's Dinner Theatre, 700 Main St. 857-0114.**

SACKVILLE

Thursday, Jan. 23

The Garnet & Gold Musical Theatre Society presents Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* from Jan. 23 to 25. Tickets in advance are \$10 for students, \$12 for adults and \$5 for children for the Saturday matinee only. Tickets at the door are \$12 for students and \$15 for adults. The production is being directed by Karen Valanne, with choreography by Ian Dickinson, music direction by Dylan Maddix, set design by Justin Thomas and costume design by Kendrick Haunt. Show starts at 8 p.m., with a matinee on Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. **Convocation Hall, 37 York St., Sackville.**

FREDERICTON

Friday, Jan. 24

Back by popular demand, The Playhouse presents *Summer School* - starring Sister who is returning to

teach summer school. This is the fourth instalment of the comedic *Late Nite Catechism* series. Tickets are \$34 for members, \$38 for non-members and \$19 for youth under the age of 19. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. **The Playhouse, 686 Queen St. 458-8344.**

Wednesday, Jan. 22, to Saturday, Jan. 25

The Next Folding Theatre Company hits the stage with *Quarantine Island, 1847*. It's a pairing of history and a lot of creativity on the parts of its six collaborators. They tell the story, act by act and through song, movement and special effects, of a ship overcome with an outbreak of typhoid and scarlet fever being forced to dock on Middle Island outside of Miramichi. Show starts at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors. **Charlotte Street Arts Centre Auditorium, 732 Charlotte St. 454-6952.**

SAINT JOHN

Saturday, Jan. 25

Make sure you register for this outreach event put on by Imperial Theatre. The *Conversations with Inspiring Women Series* starts up again for its third season with the Friars sisters. The sisters have been producing their Let's Celebrate event for the past 10 years, and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charitable and community groups. The public has the chance to informally chat with the sisters about how they organize, fundraise and produce this sell-out event. Their conversation takes place on Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m., and preregistration is required since space is limited. The event is free of charge. **Imperial Theatre, 24 Kings Sq. S. 674-4100.**



From left: Xavier Gould (Lumiere), Michelle Brake (assistant stage manager), D'Arcy Blunston (Bebette), Spencer Rhindress (Chip), Nick Vince (Maurice) and Daniel Murphy (Cogsworth) rehearse for *Beauty and the Beast*. Photo credit: Justin Thomas.

FIL

MONCTON

Cineplex Cinemas Trinity Drive
127 Trinity Dr.
382-2093

Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 12:00

Frozen 3D (G) Fri, Tue 7:20, Sat 2:35, 5:15, 7:50; Sun 2:35, 5:00, 7:30; Mon, Wed-Thurs 7:30

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) (Disturbing Content, Violence) Fri, Sun-Thurs 6:55, 9:55; Sat 12:30, 3:40, 6:55, 9:55

The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug 3D (PG) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Fri, Tue 6:40, 9:50; Sat 12:15, 2:40, 6:40, 9:50; Sun 12:15, 2:40, 6:15; Mon, Wed-Thurs 8:15

Saving Mr. Banks (PG) (Not Rec. For Young Children) Fri, Mon-Thurs 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Ride Along (14) (Language May Offend, Violence) No Passes Fri, Tue 7:45, 10:15; Sat 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15; Sun 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10; Mon, Wed-Thurs 7:45, 10:10

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) (Violence, Mature Theme, Language May Offend) Fri, Tue 9:45; Sat 10:15; Sun-Mon, Wed-Thurs 10:05

American Hustle (14) (Coarse Language) Fri, Tue 6:45, 10:00; Sat 12:20, 3:45, 6:45, 10:00; Sun 12:20, 3:45, 7:10, 10:00; Mon, Wed-Thurs 7:10, 10:00

Devil's Due (14) (Disturbing Content, Violence, Coarse Language) No Passes Fri, Tue 8:00, 10:20; Sat 12:30, 4:10, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35; Sun 12:30, 4:10, 8:00, 10:15; Mon, Wed-Thurs 8:00, 10:15

Her (14) (Language May Offend, Sexual Content, Nudity) Fri, Tue 7:10, 10:05; Sat 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:05; Sun 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50



Julia Roberts, left, Ewan McGregor and Meryl Streep star in *August: Osage County*. Photo credit: Claire Folger.

Mon, Wed-Thurs 6:50, 9:50

Bolshoi Ballet: Jewels Sun 1:55

DIEPPE

Cineplex Cinemas Dieppe
499 Paul St.
382-2093

Frozen 3D (G) Closed Captioned Fri, Mon-Thurs 7:30; Sat-Sun 2:15, 4:45, 7:30

Frozen (G) Closed Captioned Sat-Sun 11:45

I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Closed Captioned Thurs 10:00

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) (Violence, Language May Offend, Mature Theme) UltraAVX, No Passes Fri, Mon-Thurs 7:45, 10:20; Sat-Sun 11:55, 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20

The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug 3D (PG) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Closed Captioned Fri, Mon-Thurs 6:30, 10:00; Sat 3:00, 6:30, 10:00; Sun 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00

Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (14) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Closed Captioned Fri, Tue-Thurs 8:00, 10:10; Sat-Sun 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10; Mon 10:10

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) (Violence, Mature Theme, Language May Offend) Closed Captioned Fri-Thurs 10:05

The Wolf Of Wall Street (18) (Substance Abuse, Sexual Content, Nudity) Closed Captioned Fri, Mon-Thurs 8:15; Sat-Sun 2:15, 6:00, 9:45

The Nut Job 3D (PG) Fri, Mon-

Wed 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun 2:45, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50; Thurs 7:30

Lone Survivor (14) (Coarse Language, Violence) Closed Captioned Fri, Mon-Thurs 6:45, 9:55; Sat-Sun 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:55

The Nut Job (PG) Sat-Sun 12:30

Mood Indigo French (with English subtitles) Mon 7:00

August: Osage County (14) (Coarse Language, Substance Abuse) Closed Captioned Fri, Mon-Thurs 7:15, 10:10; Sat-Sun 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10

The Golden Compass (PG) (Frightening Scenes) Sat 11:00

À La Croisée Des Mondes: La Boussole D'or (PG) (Frightening Scenes) Sat 11:00

Opération Noisettes (PG) Sat-Sun 12:00

SAINT JOHN

Cineplex Cinemas Saint John
179 McAllister Dr.
657-3450

Frozen 3D (G) Fri 7:45; Sat-Sun 2:40, 5:15, 7:45; Mon-Thurs 6:15

Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 12:05

I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Thurs 10:00

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) (Violence, Language May Offend, Mature Theme) No Passes Fri 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun 11:55, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15; Mon-Wed 7:00, 9:35; Thurs 7:00, 8:50

The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug 3D (PG) (Frightening

Scenes, Violence) Fri 7:00, 10:30; Sat 11:45, 3:15, 6:55, 10:30; Sun 1:00, 4:30, 8:00; Mon-Thurs 7:30

Ride Along (14) (Language May Offend, Violence) No Passes Fri 7:55, 10:25; Sat-Sun 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25; Mon-Thurs 6:50, 9:25

Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (14) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Fri-Sun 10:30; Mon-Thurs 9:10

The Wolf Of Wall Street (18) (Substance Abuse, Sexual Content, Nudity) Fri 8:05; Sat 12:30, 4:15, 8:10; Sun 5:20, 9:10; Mon-Thurs 8:00

The Nut Job 3D (PG) Fri 7:30, 9:45; Sat-Sun 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Mon-Wed 6:30, 8:50; Thurs 6:30

Devil's Due (14) (Disturbing Content, Violence, Coarse Language) No Passes Fri 8:15, 10:35; Sat 1:30, 3:40, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35; Sun 1:20, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35; Mon-Thurs 7:15, 9:40

The Nut Job (PG) Sat-Sun 12:45; Star & Strollers Screening Wed 11:00

Lone Survivor (14) (Coarse Language, Violence) Fri 7:25, 10:20; Sat-Sun 12:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20; Mon-Wed 6:40, 9:35; Thurs 6:45, 9:35

Her (14) (Language May Offend, Sexual Content, Nudity) Fri 7:15, 10:05; Sat-Sun 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05; Mon-Thurs 6:05, 9:00

Her (14) (Language May Offend, Sexual Content, Nudity) Star & Strollers Screening Wed 11:00

August: Osage County (14) (Coarse Language, Substance Abuse) Fri 7:00, 9:55; Sat-Sun 1:05, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55; Mon-Thurs 6:00, 8:55

Bolshoi Ballet: Jewels Sun 1:55

The Golden Compass (PG) (Frightening Scenes) Sat 11:00

FREDERICTON

Cineplex Cinemas Fredericton
1381 Regent St.
472-3450

Frozen 3D (G) Closed Captioned Fri, Wed 2:20, 7:05; Sat 4:30, 7:05; Sun 4:15, 7:05; Mon-Tue, Thurs 7:05

Frozen (G) Closed Captioned Sat 11:05, 1:40; Sun 1:00

I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Closed

Captioned Thurs 10:20

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) (Violence, Language May Offend, Mature Theme) Closed Captioned, No Passes Fri, Wed 3:10, 7:20, 10:05; Sat-Sun 12:15, 3:20, 7:20, 10:05; Mon-Tue, Thurs 7:20, 10:05

The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug 3D (PG) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Closed Captioned Fri, Wed 3:00, 6:20, 9:00; Sat-Sun 11:50, 2:50, 6:20, 9:00; Mon-Tue, Thurs 6:20, 9:00

Saving Mr. Banks (PG) (Not Rec. For Young Children) Closed Captioned Fri, Wed 2:00, 6:05, 9:15; Sat, Mon-Tue, Thurs 6:05, 9:15; Sun 12:05, 6:05, 9:15

Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (14) (Frightening Scenes, Violence) Closed Captioned Fri-Thurs 9:45

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) (Violence, Mature Theme, Language May Offend) Closed Captioned Fri, Wed 2:40, 7:00, 9:55; Sat-Sun 12:45, 3:50, 7:00, 9:55; Mon-Tue, Thurs 7:00, 9:55

The Wolf Of Wall Street (18) (Substance Abuse, Sexual Content, Nudity) Closed Captioned Fri, Wed 2:30, 7:30; Sat-Sun 3:30, 7:30; Mon-Tue, Thurs 7:30

The Nut Job 3D (PG) Fri, Wed 2:10, 6:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun 3:40, 6:30, 10:10; Mon-Tue 6:30, 10:10; Thurs 6:30

Devil's Due (14) (Disturbing Content, Violence, Coarse Language) Closed Captioned, No Passes Fri, Wed 3:30, 6:50, 9:25; Sat-Sun 12:50, 4:05, 6:50, 9:25; Mon-Tue, Thurs 6:50, 9:25

The Nut Job (PG) Sat-Sun 12:25

Lone Survivor (14) (Coarse Language, Violence) Closed Captioned Fri, Wed 3:20, 6:45, 9:40; Sat-Sun 12:35, 3:55, 6:45, 9:40; Mon-Tue, Thurs 6:45, 9:40

Her (14) (Language May Offend, Sexual Content, Nudity) Closed Captioned Fri, Wed 2:50, 6:00, 9:10; Sat-Sun 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:10; Mon-Tue, Thurs 6:00, 9:10

Her (14) (Language May Offend, Sexual Content, Nudity) Star & Strollers Screening Wed 11:00

Bolshoi Ballet: Jewels Sun 1:55

The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff - Encore Sat 12:30

The Golden Compass (PG) (Frightening Scenes) Sat 11:00

Her is wonderfully weird, smart and sad

Movie delves into love and loneliness in the modern world

ALEXANDRA DAVIS

REVIEW Her is a sweet, weird, wonderful film that offers a series of relevant observations about love, technology and loneliness.

★ Set in a not-so-distant and still-relatable future, the film's protagonist is Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix). Theodore is an isolated and sad man who's going through a divorce and half-heartedly working at a job where he writes letters on behalf of other people.

Theodore's life starts to change when he "meets" Samantha (voiced by Scarlett Johansson), his new artificially-intelligent operating system. It's quickly apparent that Samantha is much more than a standard OS – sure she can organize Theodore's emails, but she also has a personality, and is capable of feeling things such as curiosity, joy and jealousy. Over time, Samantha gets to know and understand Theo-

dore, and it isn't quite as weird as you might expect when they end up falling in love.

Theodore hasn't had a whole lot of human contact since his wife Catherine (Rooney Mara) left him. He does have the support of his friend from college, Amy (Amy Adams), but Theodore feels more comfortable developing a relationship with a computer than trying to create a connection with a woman. This is sad, of course – Samantha, for all her depth and capacity for empathy, is not a human – but it also somehow makes sense.

Her isn't just sad and weird, it's also very funny at times, and writer and director Spike Jonze takes full advantage of his odd premise. In an especially great scene, Theodore and Samantha, participating in hand-held device form, go on a double date with his coworker, Paul (Chris Pratt), and Paul's real-life girlfriend.

Phoenix dominates the screen time and gives a great perform-

ance as an emotionally stunted man speaking to a disembodied voice. As much as it's about technology isolating us and preventing us from forming human connections, *Her* is also about a connection that's actually more realistic, and certainly much more interesting, than many of the regular relationships depicted in more conventional films.



HER

Directed by Spike Jonze; Written by Spike Jonze; Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Adams, Rooney Mara and Chris Pratt.

Did you know: Samantha was originally voiced by Samantha Morton. After filming wrapped, Spike Jonze decided something wasn't right and, with Morton's blessing, he recast the role with Scarlett Johansson.

Her stars Joaquin Phoenix and is set in the not-so-distant future where his character falls in love with an operating system.

One-sided war film lacks context

Lone Survivor depicts brutality of Afghanistan war

ALEXANDRA DAVIS

REVIEW *Lone Survivor* is a harrowing film that depicts the brutality of the Afghanistan war. It's also pretty heavy on propaganda, and its decision to focus on only one perspective ends up being detrimental.

★ From the beginning, the audience is aware that only one man will be making it out (barely) alive. That man is U.S. Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell (Mark Wahlberg). In 2005, Luttrell was one of four SEALs, along with Michael Murphy (Taylor Kitsch), Danny Dietz (Emile Hirsch) and Matt "Axe" Axelson (Ben Foster), given the task of taking down Taliban leader Ahmad Shah (Yousuf Azami).

Things quickly go awry, with communication gear failing. They encounter a family of unarmed goat-herders with Taliban connections. Torn over what to do, the SEALs eventually let them go. Soon after, the steep, rocky cliffs they're hiding out on are

swarming with Taliban fighters.

What follows is a horrific blood-bath, and each of the men shows incredible comradeship and bravery in a situation that would be inconceivable for the average person. Their ability to keep it together and remember their training until the end is inspiring.

But there are also mishaps that are shown – such as when an aircraft tries and fails to extract the SEALs – without assigning any real blame. *Lone Survivor* is focused on applauding these American soldiers for their courage, which is fair enough, but at the same time, the mission was a disaster, a fact that is only barely addressed.

This isn't a film that questions why this mission is happening or whether there's some kind of real purpose for it all. Without any greater context, the SEALs become stock heroes, and members of the Taliban are nearly cartoon villains. *Lone Survivor* is still a gripping war film, but it isn't as powerful as it could have been.



Lone Survivor is focused on applauding the American soldiers for their courage, which is fair enough, but at the same time, the mission was a disaster, a fact that is only barely addressed.

LONE SURVIVOR

Directed by Peter Berg; Written by Peter Berg; Starring Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch, Ben Foster, Eric Bana, Alexander Ludwig and Yousuf Azami.

Did you know: Actual military veterans were used in the film to fill extra and acting roles.

RECENTLY REVIEWED

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY

Directed by Ben Stiller; Written by Steve Conrad; Starring Ben Stiller, Kristen Wiig and Sean Penn.

REVIEW This film isn't anything deep, but it is engaging. Daydreamer Walter (Ben Stiller) has been working for Life magazine for 16 years when he learns the publication is going out of print. He goes on a mission to find a missing front page photo – taking him all over the world.

47 RONIN

Directed by Carl Rinsch; Written by Chris Morgan and Hossein Amini; Starring Keanu Reeves, Tadanobu Asano and Min Tanaka.

REVIEW While *47 Ronin* is visually fun, the plodding pace make for a film that feels bland. It's based on a Japanese legend where Kai (Keanu Reeves) is taken in by Lord Asano (Min Tanaka) as a child. The evil Lord Kira (Tadanobu Asano) plots to take down Asano, which he does, leaving 47 samurai without a master. The 47 ronin, or samurai, then work to avenge their master's death.

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

Directed by Martin Scorsese; Written by Terrence Winter; Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jonah Hill, Kyle Chandler and Matthew McConaughey.

REVIEW This movie is really entertaining, albeit three hours long. It's a black comedy about fraudulent stockbroker Jordan Belfort (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his immense success at selling crap stocks to suckers. There's lots of drugs, sex and wild behaviour.

GA ME

Video games don't work as movies

Thankfully Tekken prequel not in the works

NELSON HUM

I love it when something I am interested in jumps genres. Whether it's books to movies, comics to films, or TV shows to books, I can dig cross-over content. But one thing I never really enjoyed (and I think most diehards will agree given the amount of content out there) is video games becoming movies. Specifically, fighting games making the jump to

the silver screen.

It was recently announced – and then retracted – that a prequel film for Tekken was in the works. Actor Kane Kosugi first said he was going to be starring in a Tekken prequel titled *Tekken: A Man Called X*, but then quickly said he was actually in a movie titled *Agent X* and it has nothing to do with the fighting game. So, even though the movie is a no-go (probably to the disappoint-

ment of no one), it got me thinking: who would have wanted to green-light or see the movie anyway?

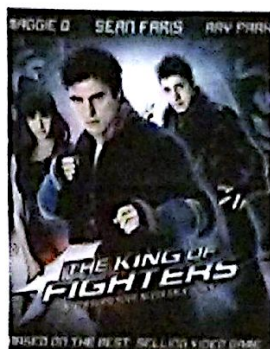
The first film for the franchise, released in 2010 and was simply titled *Tekken*, was a lacklustre film that hardly set the box office on fire. While it was released in theatres in Asia, it went straight to video over here. I saw the film, and the popular consensus that the film is mediocre is pretty accurate. The film suf-

fers from most fighting game-gone-movie problems – trying to turn an already convoluted or lame story into a movie plot.

As I stated before, I love fighting games, but I'm the first to recognize that the plot in those games is usually poor, nonsensical, or both. Given the motley crew of characters featured in fighters, it's hard to string all of it together into something coherent. What inevitably happens is the cramming of too many thinly developed characters against a simplified yet still-too-cheesy story. While there is nothing wrong with turning down the craziness in a fighting game storyline to have it make more sense, your source material is poor to begin with.

I'm not trying to be a downer or even squash someone's movie-making dream, but fighting games make pretty shoddy source material and there is plenty of proof that the genre just doesn't work on film.

Send your questions or comments to: the_big_n@hotmail.com or to @nelsonhum on Twitter.



BO KO

Game grips with non-stop thrills

Main character starts game that takes him to dangerous places

CHARLES MANDEL

Game is the first book in a compulsively readable trilogy from Swedish author Anders de la Motte. If any thriller deserves the appellation of page-turner, *Game* is it. I don't normally use phrases like "unreadable" in reviews, but *Game* kept me up late into the night, reading to see what happened next.

Set in Sweden, the novel features an anti-hero in the character of Henrik Pettersson, better known as HP. HP is shiftless, lazy, unreliable, unemployed – but for all that, fairly intelligent. Travelling on the subway one day, he finds a cellphone of burnished silver that's very high-tech indeed.

The only problem with the phone is it appears locked and won't let him do anything but answer one simple question with a yes or a no:

"Wanna play a game?"

As it turns out, HP is willing and is given his first assignment in the Game from the anonymous Game-master. The first task seems silly. HP is told to grab an umbrella from a businessman on the subway before it reaches the station. If he's successful, he's told the phone will be unlocked and his to use as long as he participates in the Game and he will also be awarded 100 points.

As the Game progresses, HP discovers he is one of a number of participants and that each assignment is worth points that translates into a cash payment. He is tasked to film every assignment and soon finds out that the films are posted up on the Game's website along with other footage of him from different angles carrying out the assignments.

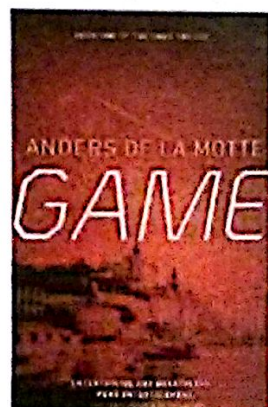
As the assignments increase in

monetary value, they also begin to shift from acts of mischief to those more criminal in nature. HP is asked to remove the wheel bolts from a Ferrari, and then he's asked to throw a flash bomb at a royal procession.

Even HP, lazy as he is, begins to question what he's doing, but as it turns out, leaving the Game isn't as easy as starting it.

At the same time, HP's sister, Rebecca Normen, is a police officer who has moved into the elite security force responsible for protecting dignitaries. She and HP don't have much contact anymore, but soon the Game will bring them together in a way they would have never imagined.

De la Motte is a smooth, transparent writer who has the uncanny ability to place you right next to his characters in the action. Add to that



some intriguing sub-plots and non-stop thrills and *Game* proves it has all the right moves.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Game
By Anders De La Motte
Published by HarperCollins;
368 pp.; \$17.99

JUST SOME STUFF

Business Opportunities

GREAT CANADIAN DOLLAR STORE franchise opportunities. With stores from coast to coast, we've been "Working Together for Success"® since 1993. Call us today 506-849-4123; www.dollar-stores.com.

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Quality Assurance Course for Health Canada's **COMMERCIAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM**. February 22 & 23 Best Western Hotel, Kelowna, BC. Tickets: www.green-lineacademy.com or 1-855-860-8611 or 250-870-1882

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Grand Theft Bus's rescheduled show hits the stage this weekend



Get ready for a musical treat. Grand Theft Bus has rescheduled its December show - which was cancelled due to inclement weather - and is playing two sets at Peppers Pub in Saint John on Saturday, Jan. 18. If you had tickets to the cancelled show, the tickets are good for this one. Photo credit: Matt Carter.



FREDERICTON

Get ready for the most intense 20 minutes of your life. Watch 12 professional and emerging artists paint for the title of Art Battle Champion on Jan. 18. They have 20 minutes for each of three rounds to create a masterpiece using acrylic paint. The winner earns a cash prize and a spot in the New Brunswick Championship in June. Tickets are \$15. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the painting starts at 8 p.m. **Charlotte Street Arts Centre, 732 Charlotte St.** Photo credit: Art Battle Canada.



MONCTON

Watch four people eat Relish's new burger, the Terminator, really, really fast on Jan. 18. The contestants in the burger-eating contest are two radio personalities and two researchers from the Atlantic Cancer Research Institute. It's a kickoff to introduce the new burger, as well as announcing the teaming up of Relish with the Atlantic Cancer Research Institute in the fight against cancer. A percentage of the Terminator burger sales from Jan. 18 to Feb. 28 will be donated to the research institute. The burger-eating contest is at 12:30 p.m. at Relish, 809 Main St. Photo credit: Rodney Mann.



SAINT JOHN

Channel Demi Moore from the movie Ghost and become a pottery whiz. There's only one place to start: pottery class. Four weeks of classes, including work on the wheel and hands-on personal instruction from professional potter Alison Gayton, start this Saturday from 1:30 until 4 p.m. While creating functional, beautiful clay art is priceless, these classes do come with a cost: \$250. They run until Feb. 8. **Saint John Arts Centre, 20 Peel Plaza.** 633-4870. Submitted photo.



Winter GETAWAY

Planning a Winter Vacation

While summer might be the season most associated with vacation, winter also is a great time of year to leave everything behind. Winter break at the kids' school and time off from the office around the holiday season make winter a great time to get away.

But planning a winter vacation is different than planning one for the summer. The following are a few pointers to ensure your winter escape goes off without a hitch.

* Double check school schedules before booking a trip. Families should check with their local school district to confirm when the school or schools are having their winter break. Such information might be available on the district's or school's Web site before the school year even begins, allowing parents to plan their trip months in advance. College students often have longer winter breaks, so they should be free to travel. But confirm the dates of their winter break as well. No parent wants to book a trip only to discover that vacation is forcing a child to miss school and possibly fall behind in the classroom.

* Pack accordingly. When traveling in the summer, it's often unnecessary to pack items like sweaters or overcoats. However, traveling in the winter, even if your destination is a warm beach, mandates such items for anyone living in a locale where winter weather dips below freezing. You won't want to return home in flip flops and tank tops if the temperature outside is frigid.

When packing, it's also good to note that items like sweaters and coats take up more space than T-shirts and bathing suits. Consider this when packing and factor in how larger suitcases may affect your traveling budget if you're traveling by air and your chosen airline charges for excess baggage.

* Expect delays. The weather is not often a consideration when traveling in the summer, when the skies are generally clear and the roads are not delayed by things like snowstorms or poor road conditions. However, winter traveling might be affected by inclement weather. Consider the weather when traveling to and from the airport, checking the forecast the night before your trip to determine when you should leave for the airport. Such delays also can influence security lines at the airport, which may have more people to accommodate if flights have been cancelled or postponed.

* Keep weather in mind when reserving a rental car. Travelers, and families in particular, typically rent a vehicle while on vacation. When vacationing in the winter at a ski resort or another area with winter weather, rent a sport utility vehicle or a car with all-wheel or four-wheel drive. Such rentals may be more expensive than renting economy cars or mid-sized sedans, but they're also more capable of handling winter roads and winter weather.



Jump in neighbours!



(Or, sitting by the fire in the Lodge is also good.)

Winter is magical at White Point, on Nova Scotia's surf-tacular South Shore! Hop on the ferry, or jump in the car. We're 90 relaxing minutes past Halifax.



COUPLES CULINARY WEEKEND

Two night package: January 31 to February 2nd
Don't lift a finger unless it's to pick up a fork or a wine glass! Enjoy Chef's Luncheon, wine tasting, Dinner, Breakfast daily and live entertainment.

\$472 Per couple. Based on White Point Room. Plus tax and gratuities.

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND

Two night package: February 14 to 16th
Feel the love! Taste the chocolate! Hold hands on the beach! Come for a weekend that includes Valentine's Dinner Buffet, music, and romance!

\$396 Per couple. Includes gratuities. Based on White Point Room. Plus tax.



'ON THE ROCKS' WEEKEND

Two night package: February 21 to 23rd
We've packaged up breakfast, entertainment, accommodation and 'On the Rocks' event tickets to taste over 75 varieties of wine, beer and spirit!

\$396 Per couple. Includes gratuities. Based on White Point Room. Plus tax.

CAA WINTERFEST WEEKEND

Two night family package: March 7 to 10th
CAA throws a fun, family weekend with mussel bakes, bonfires, marshmallows, Karaoke Dance Party, daily games, crafts, live entertainment... and *more!* Non CAA members are very welcome!

CAA MEMBERS
\$290 Per family of 4. Based on a White Point Room. Plus tax.

NON MEMBERS
\$330



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